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THE GAY WEEKLY

# Gay Community News

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**The Pink  
Pentagon**  
*Gays vs. the  
military*





# GayCommunityNews

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August 23 & 30, 1980



Tangela Gaskins

## 'People's Convention' Counters Democrats

By Betsy Smith and Lee Swislow

NEW YORK — With over 1000 people registered for the "People's Convention" in New York City's South Bronx, held on August 8 and 9, there was a clear theme of unity and a mood of enthusiasm. Convening under several huge tents in an open rock-filled area surrounded by walls of burned-out tenement buildings and serenaded by the screeching subway, the gathering was in clear contrast to the Democratic National Convention gathering in mid-town Manhattan.

Charlotte Street, the site of the convention, is a particularly devastated area of the South Bronx. President Carter stopped there 3 years ago to promise the people that they would not be forgotten, and that he would see that the community was rebuilt. Edward Kennedy and even Ronald Reagan have subsequently visited Charlotte St. to pledge support for the largely Hispanic and black community.

Appropriately enough, one of the recurrent statements of the People's Convention was, "No More False Promises."

Sunday, Aug. 10, was the day for demonstrating. Several hundred lesbians and gay men met at Washington Sq. Park to march through Greenwich Village and up Eighth Avenue to rally in front of Madison Sq. Garden, the site of the Democratic National Convention. The lesbian and gay contingent then linked up with a march and rally of 15,000 people.

The People's Convention was organized by the Coalition for a People's Alternative (CPA). CPA was formed in March, 1980 at a conference hosted by Local 1492 of the United Steelworkers of America. The convention grew out of a strong belief among the organizers and participants that the Democratic Party is not the party of the people and that it will not overturn big business politics

in order to meet human needs.

The Coalition stated the need not only to demonstrate a rejection of the Democratic party, but also to lay the groundwork for a broad political movement to enable the people of this country to act for change in the new decade.

Throughout the planning of the convention there has been strong participation by lesbians and gay men. Robbie Rosenberg, a participant in the convention, stated, "Lesbians and gays here are incredibly open about their sexuality, which is unusual in a left event of this sort. This is a big step forward."

Remarkably diverse and integrated, speakers represented many people's struggles and organizations, including the Black United Front, an anti-nuclear activist from the Three Mile Island area, the Farmer Labor Association, a welfare rights activist, a lesbian-feminist activist, and the United Tremont trades, a progressive group of mostly latino and hispanic construction workers active in the South Bronx.

It was unfortunate that few presentations were in Spanish since there were many hispanic people at the convention. There were cultural events both evenings with a variety of speakers and entertainers.

Lesbians and gay men caucused twice at the convention. On the first day, the discussion centered around the convention's proposed Unity Statement, which was to be amended by convention participants and then presented to the Democratic National Convention as a statement of what the people really want.

On Saturday, the lesbian and gay caucus talked about some of the problems experienced at the convention. One concerned the Friday night performance of Lavender Revenge, a lesbian and

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## Navy Clears Gaskins of Homosexuality Charge

Compiled by Jil Clark

LONG BEACH, CA — The Navy's Administrative Discharge Board found Petty Officer Tangela Gaskins innocent yesterday of alleged homosexual acts aboard the missile test ship Norton Sound and recommended she not be discharged from the Navy.

"Thank you for just believing in me," Gaskins exclaimed to her attorney, Susan McGrievy of the American Civil Liberties Union, as she broke into tears. The board's decision came shortly after Gaskins herself testified that she had never committed any homosexual act with anyone.

Gaskins, 25, was the first of eight women to go before the three-member board to face allegations of lesbianism aboard the ship.

Commander Francis G. Knipe, the senior member of the board, faced Gaskins as he delivered the board's finding: "Petty Officer Gaskins, the board finds there is no credible evidence the respondent engaged in homosexual acts and recommends retention."

Immediately after the decision was read, Gaskins left the court room to call her fiancé and her mother. Both her ex-boyfriend and her fiancé had testified that they didn't think she is homosexual.

According to a report in the San Francisco *Chronicle*, Gaskins told

the board she had been threatened and slandered aboard the ship ever since the allegations were made public.

"One day, I went to my job, opened my desk, and there was a lesbian picture that said, 'Tangela, you dyke'," she said. "In the female berth area, there was a sign that had to be constantly erased that said, 'Dyke's Den'."

She recalled that she had feared her mother, a Muslim, would sue for custody of her 8-year old child because of the allegations. Her mother did not.

In a brief written statement read by her Navy lawyer, Lieutenant

Doncl Davidson, Gaskins denounced the Navy probe of homosexual activities:

"I strongly resent the Navy's investigation. I do not intend to expose my private sex life any more than has already come out. But I feel a denial is in order."

Gaskins said she believes she had a fair hearing and expects the other seven respondents will get fair hearings, too, but added that she thinks nobody should have to "go through such a kangaroo court system."

The discharge hearings are not courts-martial. Therefore they can result, at most, in an honorable or general discharge.

## Press Barred from Hearings

Compiled by Jil Clark

LONG BEACH, CA — The Navy has barred reporters from the hearings of the seven women sailors who still face possible discharge for alleged lesbian activity aboard their ship, the USS Norton Sound. The closing came at the start of the second full week of testimony before the Administrative Discharge Board.

The Navy is excluding the press at the request of a prosecution witness, Joyce Arnold, who was scheduled to testify against Barbara Underwood, a 22-year old shipmate.

"A lot of this is being made into a circus," Arnold told the three-member military board, "and I don't want my testimony to be made part of that circus."

Underwood's civilian attorneys objected on the grounds that their client's constitutional right to an open trial was being violated.

## Sailor Claims Navy Threat

By Jil Clark

A woman sailor has testified at the Naval discharge hearings that a Naval Investigative Service (NIS) agent warned her that if she didn't give evidence in the probe of alleged homosexuality aboard the ship Norton Sound, she "could be court-martialled like the others."

Petty Officer Third Class Lynn Batey told the naval board that an NIS agent came up to her aboard the ship one day and instructed her to report to an address on shore.

"I was told I was going on a secret mission," she said. "I went and talked to the NIS agent. He told me he was investigating a stabbing and homosexual activity aboard the Norton Sound. I told him all I knew was rumors. He told me if I didn't tell him any evidence I could be court-martialled like the others."

Batey further alleges that the agent gave her a list of names of 30 women and asked if they were homosexual.

The American Civil Liberties Union has tried to force NIS agents to testify before the hearings now being held for the eight women accused of homosexuality aboard the ship. However, according to chief prosecutor Lieutenant Andrew Hiblar, the Navy has no authority over the NIS because it is the civilian arm of the Navy and, therefore, cannot be ordered by the Navy to testify.

Batey testified on the second day of a hearing for the first of the eight accused sailors, Petty Officer Third Class Tangela Gaskins.

Many of Gaskins' shipmates testified that she never seemed homosexual. The prosecution tried to show that bias influenced their testimony.

Petty Officer Second Class

Joyce Jones accused a prosecution witness, who had testified earlier that Gaskins was gay, of making a homosexual pass at her. According to the San Francisco *Chronicle*, this prosecution witness, Yvonne Nedrick, denied she is a lesbian, but Jones gave a detailed account of the day she drove to the beach with Nedrick:

"When we got there, I got a pillow and blanket and laid down in back of my van to listen to music," recalled Jones. "Nedrick started talking to me. She told me everyone needed someone to be their special friend. She asked me if she could slip in close to me, and I said no."

"I decided it was time to take her back to the barracks. But she grabbed my pants leg, and I told her to let go . . . and she started kissing me around my neck. That's when I took her back to the

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## Councillors Reject BCAD

BOSTON — The Boston City Council voted 9-0 to reject ordinances proposed by Mayor Kevin White which would have established a Boston Commission Against Discrimination (BCAD) and a new Boston Fair Housing Commission.

White had termed the legislation, which he filed June 5, "the most comprehensive urban anti-discrimination ordinance in the country." It would have given the BCAD broad authority to investigate complaints of discrimination because of race, sex, religion, national origin, and sexual preference, among other categories, in the areas of employment, provision of credit and services by city contractors or grantees. The Housing Commission, which

would have become a division of BCAD, would have had similar authority in the area of housing, commercial space and public accommodations.

A house-rule petition filed with the City Council would have granted the BCAD power to redress complaints through fines of up to \$10,000. In addition, the Commission could have issued cease-and-desist orders.

After the negative vote last month on White's proposal, an ordinance written by councillors Rosemarie Sansone and John Sears was submitted and approved by a five to four vote. The new ordinance establishes a Commission on Human Rights empowered to investigate charges of discrimination and forward to law enforcement agencies those

charges involving violation of existing laws. The new ordinance does not in itself make discriminatory practices illegal and establishes no penalties. It would rely on the state and federal laws, which do not include lesbians and gay men among those protected.

Observers predict that Mayor White will not sign the new, weaker ordinance but will resubmit his own proposal for the BCAD.

Council members claimed their rejection of White's ordinances resulted from the high cost involved and from the mayor's complete control over the proposed commissions. White would have appointed all five members of the commission. Under the new ordinance, the mayor's appointments would be subject to City Council approval.



# News Notes

## stuff it, phyllis

BOSTON — Anti-Equal Rights Amendment gadfly Phyllis Schlafly has refused to accept the "Turkey of the Year" award from the National Organization for Women, saying her selection was simply "sour grapes."

The Boston *Globe* reports that Schlafly turned down the frozen turkey, a Certificate of Demerit, stuffing, and instructions on where to put it. Schlafly reportedly responded to the NOW turkey gesture with the traditionally domestic view that's made her famous: "Turkey is a specialty at my house. If it was a good turkey, I would have been happy to take it with me, but it would have been hard to take it back on the airplane. The turkey is a very fine bird. I don't know why they're kicking the turkey around."

## they love america, too

COLUMBIA, SC — Organizers of this city's "I Love America" rally, part of a series of fundamentalist Christian rallies, mistakenly invited the local Metropolitan Community Church to participate — and MCC accepted.

*The Front Page*, North Carolina's lesbian and gay paper, reports (via *GAZE*, Memphis's paper) that organizers of the Columbia rally were apparently unaware that MCC ministers primarily to lesbians and gay males when they invited the church's Rev. Nancy Radcliff to take a place on the podium with 70 other local ministers.

The "I Love America" rally series, organized by television evangelist Jerry Falwell, denounces homosexuality, feminism and abortion, among other progressive goals, as contributing to the downfall of the United States.

Radcliff accepted the invitation, and was introduced to the crowd along with the other ministers.

Lesbian and gay picketers in the crowd reportedly carried signs which were "carefully worded to be inoffensive and nonconfrontational."

When asked why MCC members were at the rally, one participant told *The Front Page*, "We love America, too."

## woman of promise

NEW YORK — The Feminist Writers' Guild has announced its first annual Woman of Promise Award for previously unpublished women writers, in conjunction with its New York chapter. The award will be sponsored yearly for differing literary forms and will be administered by different Guild chapters on a rotating basis. The 1980-81 award will be in poetry and will be administered by the New York Chapter. All Guild members will be eligible to become candidates for the award.

A three-member judging panel selected by an advisory committee and approved by the local steering committee of the sponsoring chapter will choose the winners. First-, second-, and third-place poets will be listed in the Guild's national newsletter and published in a women's small press magazine or journal. Honorable mentions will be listed in the news letter.

Manuscripts for the 1980-81 award in poetry may be submitted, until November 15, 1980. Winners will be selected by January 15, 1981.

For more information on qualifications for entry or on the Guild, write the Feminist Writers' Guild P.O. Box 9396, Berkeley, CA 94709.

## gays against the draft

SAN FRANCISCO — A conference was held here August 2 by Gays Against the Draft. The group was formed by concerned gay men in January as part of the larger anti-draft program at the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in San Francisco. Members have spoken at youth and gay groups and appeared on local TV. The group had a banner in the Freedom Day Parade and were joined by many sympathetic marchers, and has recently heard from other similar groups around the country, including ones in Maryland and Los Angeles.

At the conference were people of draft age, as well as those with years of anti-draft work and draft counseling experience, members of the War Resisters League, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the AFSC. Among the topics discussed were: "Why the draft?", How will a possible gay exemption affect relations between gays and straights?", "Feminism and the militarization of society," "What life would be like for gay people in the army and in jail," and "Organizing the gay community."

Gays Against the Draft has put together a pamphlet that speaks specifically to gay men about draft and registration issues. It is available from the AFSC for 5¢ apiece, or \$4.00 for 100. For further information contact GAYS AGAINST THE DRAFT, American Friends Service Committee, 2160 Lake Street, San Francisco, CA 94121; or phone (415) 752-7766.

## gay theater of new york

NEW YORK, NY — The Gay Theater of New York opens its first national tour September 3 at the Broadway Cabaret in Washington, D.C. with Arch Brown's romantic comedy, *News Boy*. On September 23, the company will add Doric Wilson's satire, *A Perfect Relationship* to its repertory. The playwrights will direct.

The Gay Theater of New York was formed this summer by Arch Brown, Terry Helbing, Jerry Thomas and Doric Wilson to develop a national touring company dedicated to presenting professional theater which deals openly with the gay experience. Over two hundred actors were auditioned, other theater professionals interviewed, resulting in an ensemble of eight actors, two designers and three directors. The Gay Theater of New York is concluding negotiations to add other cities to its schedule after its five-week stay in Washington, D.C. It will also add other plays to its repertory.

Arch Brown's *News Boy* opens September 3 at the Broadway Cabaret, 55 K Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. for three weeks. Doric Wilson's *A Perfect Relationship* opens September 23. Both plays will perform Tuesday through Friday at 8:00 p.m., Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. and Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

Contact the Gay Theater of New York, 115 Bedford Street, basement, New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 243-3440.

## films of the march on washington

BOSTON — Three "films in progress" about the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, October 14, 1979, will have their only New England showing on Thursday night, August 28 at the Arlington Street Church in Boston. The films are *March On!*, an hour-long history of the march, from its inception in February, 1979 through the actual march, directed by Jim Hubbard of Minneapolis; *The March on Washington Film*, by Women Make Movies, New York City, and *Washington: October 14*, a 20-minute videotape that has "captured the matrix of issues and dynamics of what it was like being in Washington on that day," by Ruby Fury, Mary-Ann Reeter and Marilyn Rivchin.

All of the films are still "In progress" and audience criticism will be solicited. Several of the filmmakers are planning to be in Boston for the screenings. Eric Rofes of the Lesbian and Gay Communications Network, sponsor of the event, told *GCN*, "This is a wonderful way for people who did not attend the march to see and experience what it was like and for those people who were in Washington to relive the excitement."

The films will be shown at 7 and 9 p.m. and a donation of \$4 will be requested. The proceeds will go to the Communications Network and to the final production of the films.

## reporter sues sf police

SAN FRANCISCO — A reporter from the now-defunct Berkeley *Barb* has filed a damage action against this city's administration after he was beaten by police during the White Night riots in May 1979.

According to *The News Media and the Law*, a magazine published by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, the reporter, William Wallace, claims in his suit that police assaulted him and other reporters during the riots because police supervision was grossly negligent. He argues that his constitutional rights to cover a news event were violated.

Wallace claims that while standing on the steps of the San Francisco Public Library observing the riots, he saw several police officers running toward him at a speed which made it impossible to run away. Instead, he raised his hands above his head, held up his press credentials and yelled repeatedly, "Press, press!" But he was hit in the head with a club by an officer; more policemen ran by and hit him on the back and the legs with clubs.

Wallace was escorted to the nearby Central Emergency Clinic, his face covered in blood from a cut on his scalp. He received ten stitches.

In August of 1979, Wallace filed a claim for \$500,000 against the city; that claim was denied. His current suit asks damages for personal injuries, charging that the city and county of San Francisco had caused him physical and emotional harm by depriving him of his right of assembly and interfering with his function as a reporter.

The city maintains that the situation that night was so chaotic that the reporters were merely accidental victims of the riotous situation.

The riots stemmed from a demonstration against the verdict of voluntary manslaughter given to Dan White, admitted killer of Harvey Milk, a member of the city's Board of Supervisors and the nation's first openly gay elected official, and the city's pro-gay mayor, George Moscone.

## dignity meets the bishop

SAN FRANCISCO — Representatives from Dignity, the organization of lesbian and gay Catholics and their friends, met with representatives of the local hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church recently to discuss the differences between the organization and the church.

Dignity President Frank Scheuren and three other Dignity representatives talked with John R. Quinn, Archbishop of San Francisco and president of the National Catholic Conference of Bishops and two other clergy members about the conflict between the statement of position and purpose of Dignity and the strict dogmatic teachings of the Catholic church.

Dignity's statement, according to a release from the organization, implies that people involved in consensual sexual acts can, in fact, be full and total members of the church.

Quinn reportedly pointed out that it would be "false hope" to think that there will ever be change in the "basic moral teaching" of the church which states that only sexual activity between married persons for the purpose of procreation is acceptable and that those persons who engage in any other type of activity cannot be full members of the church. However, Quinn agreed with the need to minister to individual gay persons within the church.

The Dignity statement said that Quinn and the other bishops had "great difficulty . . . in dealing with the ministry of Dignity as they felt this would be a tacit endorsement of the fact that open sexual activity can occur and still be a positive part of a gay person being integrated into the church." However, Quinn asked for proposals on how Dignity and the San Francisco archdiocese can work together to minister to lesbians and gay males.

## psychotherapy with gay clients

PROVIDENCE, RI — A workshop on psychotherapy with gay clients will be held on the campus of Rhode Island College on September 6. Coordinated by William J. Pellicio, director of Hypnosis and Counseling Services, the workshop will include discussions of "Homosexuality: Pathology or Lifestyle?", "Adolescence and Families," "Lesbian Issues," "The Process of Coming Out," "Transference and Counter-Transference Issues," and "Counseling Couples."

The cost of the workshop, for those who register before August 26, will be \$30; after that date, registration will cost \$35. For more information or to register, contact William J. Pellicio, Hypnosis and Counseling Services, 161 Prospect Hill Street, Newport RI 02840, (401) 847-7229.

## nlg study on gay cuban refugees

BOSTON — The National Lawyer's Guild (NLG) voted at its annual convention in Boston this month to study the situation of gay and lesbian Cuban refugees. The study, which will be made through the NLG's Gay Rights Task Force and other committees, will attempt to determine why the present group of lesbian and gay refugees left Cuba, what their present situation in the United States is and how they can be defended against discrimination by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service.

For further information, contact National Lawyers Guild, 1511 K St. N.W., Room 539, Washington, D.C. 20005, attn Alice or Mary. They can be reached by telephone at (202) 783-3410.

## sisterspace pocono weekend

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Sisterspace, Philadelphia's largest lesbian organization, is sponsoring its fifth annual lesbian weekend in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, September 12, 13, 14, 1980.

The weekend, entitled "Our Community is Our Strength," will be an opportunity for lesbians to come together to share talents, skills, play and work, to strengthen the bonds of our community.

A collective group of women is planning a schedule of entertainment, workshops, cultural activities and sports events. The camp has a wide range of sports facilities, but women should plan to bring equipment.

Fees for the weekend are fixed on a sliding scale ranging from \$15 to \$54 depending upon income and number of dependents. The cost for each child brought to the weekend is \$7. Fees include cabin or tent space (tents not provided), vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals, workshops, entertainment and childcare. No woman will be turned away because of her inability to pay; however, each woman is requested to pay something. Facilities limit participation to 450 adults. Everyone must pre-register; first come, first served.

For more information and/or registration materials, contact Sisterspace, LFW, P.O. Box 7935, Philadelphia, PA 19101 or call (215) 222-5110, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 6-9 p.m.





Susan Fleischman

## Boston Women 'Take Back Night'

By Denise Sudell

BOSTON — An estimated 5,000 to 7,000 women marched through the streets of local communities last week in this city's third annual "Take Back the Night" march. The march was organized to demand an end to violence against women.

Chanting "Power to the women" and "Mujeres unidas jamas seran vencidas" ("Women united will never be defeated"), women gathered at five different locations throughout the Boston area, in Somerville, Cambridge, Jamaica Plain, Allston/Brighton, and in Boston Common and marched through their neighborhoods before converging at Roberto Clemente field in the Fenway for a rally.

A sixth contingent had originally planned to march from Dorchester, but those plans were cancelled in the wake of violence and racial tension in that area (see GCN, Vol.8, No.5).

Linda Zwickert of Dorchester Green Light told the assembled crowd that Dorchester women chose not to participate in the actual march, not because of difficulties obtaining permits for the march, and not because of a lack of support for the march, but "because we refused to be led through the black community by a white, male police force that is racist and sexist." She cited the alleged beating of a black woman, Bellana Borde, by police officers, and the shooting death of a 14 year old black youth, Levi Hart, who was killed by a bullet from a white police officer's gun.

"We are not so blind to people's feelings to march through a community that is screaming out for justice" Zwickert said. "There is no place in our city for us to march till we make our place in peace, till this city no longer allows its police department to perpetrate hatred. Then, and only then, can we truly take back the night." She received a standing ovation.

A group of five women read the collective statement in English and

Spanish prepared by the Coalition to Take Back the Night. The statement called for individual and collective action to combat racism, as well as violence against women. Hillary Kay told the crowd that third world women "are three times more vulnerable to attack than our white sisters." The statement also supported the black community's demand for justice for Levi Hart and Billy Ray Kelly and opposed the climate of racism in the city. Speakers also discussed violence against lesbians and the murders of four gay men in Boston since June.

The collective also called for an end to the oppression of elderly and disabled persons and individuals in mental institutions, as well as an end to rape, battering of women, and sexual harassment in the work place.



## Needs of Gay Youth Studied

By Warren Blumenfeld

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Committee for Children and Youth (MCCY) held a meeting on August 4 to discuss the needs of gay adolescents in the greater Boston Area. Invited guests included representatives from local lesbian and gay organizations and other community organizations interested in supporting gay youth.

MCCY was established in 1959 by a direct mandate of the governor. Today it is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organization functioning in an advocacy capacity coordinating community based groups with professionals who work with children and youth. Issues concerning young people which MCCY has dealt with in the past include youth pregnancy, drug problems, run-aways, the single parent child, and teenage suicide.

The meeting began at 3:00 and was chaired by Eric Rofes, who is a gay teacher and who also serves as a consultant to MCCY.

Sarah Benet, MCCY Associate Director, gave a background report on the organization. She then stated that one of the current projects her organization is undertaking is the researching and assisting of school workers on the topic of youth suicide. According to Benet, "The purpose of this meeting is to assist us in finding out some of the answers to gay teenage depression and suicide.

We want to know what are the special needs which gay young people have and whether these needs are being met. Going into the schools, we are finding that gay youth are at high risk for suicide and at this point we just don't have the answers."

An open discussion followed. The first point of order was to define the needs gay adolescents have that are not being met. Some of the needs which participants stressed were in the areas of effective counseling, health services, job services, support in the schools, quality foster care placement and honest media coverage. It was generally felt by the participants that the Massachusetts Department of Social Services (MDSS) does not provide effective services for gay youth. Ed Roche of the South Shore Counseling Agency stated that young people "would do better going to a private agency since MDSS deals with gay youth through silence and denial."

Some of the supportive agencies and groups which were mentioned include the New England Home for Little Wanderers, Project Place, Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY), Unitarian Universalists, Human Sexuality Services, Massachusetts Adolescent and Family Services, Homophile Community Health Services, Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Fenway Community Health Center, Gay Speakers Bureau, The Samaritans, Parents

and Friends of Gays, Exodus Center, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders and others.

When the question reached the floor concerning whether parents should be involved in support groups, Gary Drake of the Gay Task Force of Social Workers stated, "Counseling should be for parents as well as children, so that the adolescent doesn't use his or her sexual identity as merely a way of getting back at their parents. The process should involve the whole family."

Bickley Simpson of the newly formed group Parents and Friends of Gays (PFOG) talked about reaching parents and stated, "As far as support groups for parents are concerned, we're merely beginning to touch the iceberg."

Gail Bradley, also of PFOG, commented that if anyone would like to contact her organization, they could be reached at PFOG, 40 Cogswell Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140 or by calling (617) 542-5188. Meetings are the first Monday evening of each month.

Another question which the participants at the meeting dealt with concerned whether there are any changing attitudes toward the gay community which could influence a gay adolescent. Gary Greenbaum of BAGLY pointed out that "there are attitudes in society at large affecting gay youth. Gay adolescents must learn to understand gay adult issues also and that gay youth and gay adults

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## Rep. Survives Gay Porno Fire

Compiled by Mitzel

JACKSON, MS — A conservative Mississippi Congressman told a news conference last Friday that he was one of the survivors of a tragic fire that swept through a gay male sex theatre in Washington, D.C., three years ago.

Republican Jon Hinson, 1st-term Rep. from Mississippi's conservative 4th District, told reporters in Jackson that he had been one of the 13 men in the audience of the Cinema Follies on 24 Oct. 1977 when fire broke out. Nine men were killed in the blaze, including a minister, an Army officer and a Congressional aide. The fire was started at 5:00 PM when a spark from a rug shampooer ignited cleaning fluid. The four men who survived, including Hinson, were rescued by firemen through a 2nd-story window. Hinson suffered injuries in the escape.

At his news conference, Hinson did not say he was a homosexual. He had volunteered to give depositions to the survivors of the men killed in the fire who are

suing the Cinema Follies for \$2 million. The Cinema Follies has reopened at a new location.

According to the Washington Post, Hinson also confessed that in 1976 he was arrested and accused of committing an obscene act in Arlington (VA). Hinson paid \$100 for creating a public nuisance.

Hinson said that having the press conference brought relief to him and his wife Cynthia.

Hinson, a Reagan supporter, seemed certain of reelection this year. He faces a Democrat and a black independent who would split the moderate vote. These recent disclosures change his prospects.

One of Hinson's close friends said: "I told him not to disclose this. It's not like misconduct in office. He just got caught in a one-in-a-million fire. It could happen to anyone. The obvious implications — that Jon is gay — are false. That doesn't change his ability to do his job. But if that label gets hung on him, it would hurt him here."

A former chair of the Mississippi Republican party wasn't sure how voters will react. "I'm not saying it's an asset — don't misunderstand me. But I think there's an excellent chance of his being reelected. Thomas Eagleton's still in the U.S. Senate and my goodness, he's had shock treatment and everything else."

Michael Retzer, current GOP chair, said: "The whole business of repentance involves confession. Most of us prefer to confess in private."

Hinson succeeded Thad Cochran as U.S. Rep. for the 4th District. Cochran is now U.S. Senator from Mississippi. Hinson is a former Marine and former aide to Cochran. According to aides, Hinson has gained a reputation for frankness in his 2 years in the Congress. About these recent events, Hinson told reporters: "I must be totally frank and tell you that both these incidents were in areas frequented by some of Washington's homosexual community."

## Frank Backs Valley For State Rep. Seat

BOSTON, MA — Representative Barney Frank announced on August 13 that he will support the candidacy of Tom Valley to fill the seat Frank is leaving to run for the U.S. House of Representatives. Frank has represented the Eighth Suffolk District, which includes the Back Bay and Beacon Hill, for seven years and has repeatedly introduced legislation to protect lesbians and gay men against discrimination in employment.

Frank cited the need for progressive representation for the district and expressed his belief that Valley's record demonstrates his ability and his commitment.

Frank said, "Over the past decade, Tom Valley has worked conscientiously for the advancement of progressive policies and elected officials. He is a person of complete integrity and refreshing independence who has been consistently committed to serving the public interest . . ." Frank continued. "Tom has the courage to stand up for what he believes, and I am certain he will never hesitate to challenge the powers of special interests in state government. I know he will not be afraid to dissent from the political establishment and that he will demand accountability for the expenditure of

state tax dollars."

When asked by GCN, Valley said he would continue Frank's efforts for gay rights legislation. He declared he would become "chief lobbyist" to prohibit such discrimination. He said that since the two bills introduced in previous sessions have come within a few votes of passage, efforts should be directed toward building a broader base of support for future attempts. Concerning the possibility of a veto by the governor should the bills pass the legislature, Valley said, "If you don't have a governor who supports them, you should get a new governor."

Valley has pointed out that all the candidates for this house seat have made pro-gay rights statements, but that if all that was needed for passage of gay-rights legislation was a pro-gay rights representative from that district, the bills would have become law long ago. Valley says more attention should be paid to the tactics of passing the bills and that the makeup of the entire legislature needs to be taken into account.

Valley says gay rights is not simply a narrow, special interest concern for the district, but affects the entire state.

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Community Voices

cuba's revolution

To the editor:

On August 8, I attended a workshop called "Cuba: Changing Status of Women, Lesbians and Gay Men" which was part of the National Lawyers Guild conference held at Boston University last week. The main speaker was Maria Isabel Acevedo, a lawyer and an officer in the Cuban Federation of Women, a government-sponsored organization. I want to share with GCN readers some of her statements as well as the audience's and my reaction (The National Lawyers Guild is comprised of liberal to leftist lawyers and law students, of which over 100 attended Ms. Acevedo's workshop. The Guild has a long history of support for the Cuban revolution.)

Ms. Acevedo stated that there is no legal discrimination against lesbians and gay men in Cuba. In the same breath, she discussed a 1971 resolution, now law, prohibiting gays from teaching or working in day care centers. When politely questioned about this contradiction, Acevedo responded with a fine example of doublespeak: "If we say not being allowed to work in day care centers and schools is discriminatory, then we couldn't say that people who have had social problems and conflicts should not work in the schools. You can be sure that no one who has been a criminal becomes a teacher in Cuba." Acevedo pointed out that there still are some closeted gay teachers in Cuban schools; a few who make no trouble "remain when there is no issue of homosexuality, no problem, and they do their work."

Acevedo also claimed that the 1971 law proves the interest of the Cuban government is not to oppress gays, because "no place in the legal code does it say gays should be put in jails or concentration camps, [and] the [1971] resolution shows our society wants this to remain true."

Questioned about Castro's recent newspaper editorial characterizing those people leaving Cuba as "vagrants, prostitutes, homosexuals, and scum," Acevedo defended this official derogation of gays as having served "a specific political purpose. To clarify, we should have said *counterrevolutionary* gays. Primary for us is defense of the revolution. So people who have fought against the revolution, whether gay or straight, are all our enemies. Gays unfortunately were used against the revolution because our enemies know this is a weak point for us, in that we have not achieved assimilation of gays" into Cuban society.

Discussing lesbian and gay people's motivation for leaving Cuba, Acevedo said, "These gays were not looking for a place to be openly gay, primarily, but looking for material advantages no one can get in Cuba," such as "cars and tape recorders." Acevedo characterized gay refugees as victims of U.S. propaganda which claims there is a paradise for gays in the U.S. (!) and asked the audience triumphantly, "If gays were coming [to the U.S.] because of repression of gays in Cuba, why haven't they *all* come?"

When asked whether the present Cuban policy of excluding lesbians and gay men from the Communist Party — Cuba's one official party — might contribute to gays' low level of support for the "revolution," Acevedo did not deny that such an exclusionary policy exists. Instead, she responded that "the process must begin with understanding in the community. There is no understanding about gays in the community. So if the Communist Party of Cuba [assured gays a place in the party by statute], nothing would happen. The Party is very selective; we really think this policy is like other [exclusionary] policies. There are other opportunities to serve the revolution outside of the Party."

Besides three or four questioners, very few people in the large crowd challenged Maria Acevedo's hypocritical apologies for the oppression of lesbians and gay men in Cuba. One man tried to convey his indignation that 20 years after the defeat of Battista "women in Cuba still do not enjoy freedoms and you have laws against gays. Yet you say you have a revolution." This man had difficulty expressing himself and this difficulty, coupled with the extreme unpopularity of his views, precipitated hisses and other signs of annoyance from the audience. I briefly interviewed four random audience members after the workshop; their responses were uniform. This was much better than they had expected; at least Cuba is admitting that gays exist in Cuba; it's a step in the right direction. When I protested that they seemed satisfied with so little, and that the same statements from an United States official would have enraged them, my interviewees all answered with something like, "Yes, but Acevedo was talking about Cuba. There was a revolution there."

In our support and respect for aspects of the Cuban revolution, I believe there is plenty of room for challenge, indignation and criticism when gay people are obviously oppressed, and their oppression whitewashed, by the Cuban government. It was frustrating for me to discover that most of Acevedo's listeners at the National Lawyers Guild workshop — some of whom were gay — did not see it this way.

Disappointedly,  
Frank Koski  
National Lawyers Guild member  
Bloomington, IN

the year ahead

To the Lesbian and Gay Community,

The Massachusetts Gay Political Caucus will shortly begin to gear up for a busy fall and winter work session. This is an important year for lesbian and gay civil rights in the Commonwealth. We will see many changes amongst our office holders on the state and federal level. We must be aware of these changes and involved in the elections of the people who will fill these seats. The voices of our community must be heard before and during the elections or they will most certainly not be heard after. We must register to vote, educate ourselves on the candidates and their stands on important issues and then get out the vote. The Massachusetts Gay Political Caucus will be working on these efforts and we need and want all the support we can get.

In addition, we will shortly begin to organize ourselves for the new legislative session. Bills specifically portecting the rights of lesbians and gays will again be presented to the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate. These bills are written and presented each year in an effort to end discrimination in the Commonwealth. Important gains were made last year although neither of our bills was passed. Our bill to ban discrimination in state employment was included in the Civil Service Reform package (last year's H6078). This package was reported out of committee favorably. It never made it to the floor in the rush for prorogation. However, the package will be brought up again and our bill will be included. This inclusion represents an important step for us. The Civil Service package is backed by a broad coalition of unions, management, municipal associations and the League of Women Voters, among others.

This will be a very active year for the Mass. Gay Political Caucus. We will be working hard to carry out the stated goals of our organization. We will be working with the National Gay Task Force, Gay Rights National Lobby and other groups on the federal level to supply Massachusetts input to the federal legislative effort. We expect to continue to support and work with Mass. Women's Political Caucus, NOW, CPPAX, CLUM and other organizations in this state to keep the efforts alive and the progress we have made firmly cemented.

In order to do these things and more, the Caucus needs your support. Our annual membership meeting will be held on Thursday evening, August 21, 1980. In addition to elections of officers and reports on this year's activities, we will be setting our priorities for the coming campaigns and legislative year. You can be a part of the process. Come on August 21, at 7 p.m. to the Old West Church at 130 Cambridge Street in Boston. Together we can make this year the year of gay and lesbian rights in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,  
Steven Tierney  
Massachusetts Gay Political Caucus  
Boston, MA

political lexicon

Dear Friends,

There is a serious need in our community to discuss and *work on* issues which continue to divide us. Six of the 12 letters in the August 9 GCN attest clearly to that. It is therefore dismaying to see the valuable "Speaking Out" space in that same issue taken up with a thoughtless, humorless, rancid "Political Lexicon," of which the sole effect can only be a further muddying of already murky waters. It's a poor bit of writing by any standards, but particularly by GCN's. Boo!

On many occasions, GCN has published articles, letters and editorials which make important contributions to our community's wholeness, which help to bridge the crippling gaps between lesbians and gay men, young and old, and people of all colors. You have helped us reach out to the physically challenged, to the blind and the deaf. You have helped us learn to celebrate our diversity. We need *more* of that, much more! Please GCN, we have come to expect better of you than that column.

Laurence Gold  
Madison, WI

no place

Dear Friends,

In your page one story in the August 9, 1980 GCN, regarding the *Our Own* controversy in Virginia Beach, you quoted a spokesperson for Rev. Rodney Bell as saying "God has spoken on this issue." You then go on to say, "Contacted by GCN, God declined comment."

Such facetious remarks as this have no place in a news story. A tone of objectivity should always characterize your news articles, though your reporters are obviously pro-gay. Sarcasm and flippant commentary, especially in the context of a news story, will ultimately damage your credibility and earn you less respect as journalists.

Please continue your comprehensive coverage of news relevant to the gay community in all parts of the country.

Sincerely,  
E. Jennings  
Roanoke, VA

Editor's Note: Sorry. You're right.

liberation

Dear Editor:

As a lesbian activist, I am distressed by the continuing insistence on the part of women who call themselves lesbian-feminists to confuse the support of transgenerational relationships and repeal of age of consent laws with an alleged callous indifference by gay men to rape and abuse of women and children, and to (deliberately?) employ this confusion to divide the gay movement and render it politically ridiculous.

The repeal of restrictive legislation is essential for the liberation of youth, whose sexuality has been denied and repressed for so long that we have all been raised to accept this repression as "natural" and "good." However, as Shulamith Firestone details in her radical feminist classic, *The Dialectic of Sex*, the state of "childhood" is a relatively recent invention of our increasingly structured and standardized civilization, which uses the myths of innocence, asexuality, and need for protection to maintain the power of the nuclear family as the basic unit of social control and property transmission. The child is forced to repress its natural self almost from birth, leading to an inability to experience spontaneity and joyfulness in its body, its emotions, and its relationships.

Who among us did not grow up with distorted and damaged images of our sexuality that brought years, if not a lifetime, of grief and guilt? Who does not remember agonies of repressed emotions and missed opportunities, or deals of loneliness and hopelessness, all brought on by youth's feelings of shame as a sexual being? How many of us can say that we have outgrown this damage to our psyche, and are living without the scars inflicted in our youth? The model for exploitation thus originates within the family structure, with the child forced into a no-exit situation far more powerful and potentially destructive than that feared by those who would prohibit children the opportunity to fulfill their natural physical and emotional cravings in voluntary relationships outside the biological family.

If strict age of consent laws could deter rape and/or emotional or financial coercion, then I, as well as many of my gay brothers, would be militantly in favor of such legislation. However, these laws serve no such purpose, but succeed in re-inforcing the already-rigid demands of the moralists who, as they cannot repress all sexuality, at least attempt to give it such a bad image that it becomes virtually impossible not to succumb to the idea that intimacy between generations must be a dirty, destructive force.

If we are to build a truly liberating revolutionary movement, we must unite with all oppressed people, recognizing our common fight against a repressive system, and not being seduced into attacking each other. And how better can we work toward a new society than by enabling today's youth to enjoy the freedom of exploration and growth necessary to nurture their liberating force!

Yours for a United Movement!  
Mickey Zacuto  
New York, NY

pornography

Dear Editor:

The findings of Andrea Dworkin's research on pornography, as noted in the interview with her (GCN, July 19), tend to corroborate much of my perceptions about it all. In my exposure to both straight male and gay male pornography in the past, I too have generally found the set of dynamics (power differential, woman hatred, and objectification) which Ms. Dworkin so articulately addresses. Her criticisms about the positions taken on pornography by men both on the right and the left and the nonsense about erotica vs. pornography are so valid. If men do not get defensive and dismiss her, I think that her 2½-year research project will be a great contribution to the public dialogue on the pornography issue.

Ms. Dworkin is truly one of the great thinkers, writers, and critics of our time. It is sickening that she will probably not ever be acknowledged and remembered for some great masterpiece simply because she is a woman and because she dares to express views subversive to a sexist world (as she so correctly points out). If she does not once again become the target of censorship by the establishment publishers, I look forward to reading the full text of her book on the feminist analysis of pornography.

Don Collier  
Denver, CO

features editor

GCN is looking for a Features Editor. Responsible for regular features and monthly book supplements. Good editing and writing skills, a commitment to feminism and an openness to discussion about all aspects of lesbian and male gay life are essential. Address inquiries and resumes to Richard Burns, GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108. (617) 426-4469.



# Community Voices

## more than movies

Dear Editor,

Bravo for Michael Bronski's article "The War Within the Sexes" in August 16th's issue! I, too, am tired of movies that pretend to be only movies. Far too many of these "only movies" perpetuate violence and stereotypes. I find I get angry at myself these days if I make excuses for any of my favorite movies of the year with the "only movies" rationale. To name a couple — *Fame*'s character Montgomery is a tragic figure who is allowed to be 'gay' but only if he is miserable, and that legendary line of daughter Michelle's in *All That Jazz* that I tried to forget for days — "Lesbian scenes are a turnoff!"

Where are our gay filmmakers? There is, after all, a limit to the number of times *La Cage Aux Folles* can be taken in; *Fox and His Friends* is far too depressing, predictable from the start, and male; the beginning of *The Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant* was so dull (and seemingly heterosexual) that my lover and I left after 15 minutes; and — and then what? I can't think of another film that isn't a menage a trois with men and women. I'd love to hear of any (especially lesbian — I am biased) that you or your readers might know of.

Best,  
Heather Ryan  
Boston, MA

## a new york state of confusion

Dear Editor,

The gay political scene in New York City is, at best, in a state of confusion.

No healthy coalition has been sustained to effect meaningful change. A handful of activists, sometimes called the lunatic fringe, insist on clinging to narrow issues and negating all perspectives other than their own.

Subsequently, the pastures are filled with gay political drop-outs, persons of reasonable intent who found the scene personally destructive.

There always seems to be a new controversy which is presented as "the issue," the one on which everything will succeed or topple. This time out, it is being labeled the "man/boy" dispute.

Quite simply, it is the struggle to allow males to have sexual encounters with boys under the age of 16. A tiny percentage of adult homosexual men insist on thrusting this issue to the forefront no matter what the event or occasion. It is guaranteed to stop all other discussion.

Equally vocal are a small group of lesbian/feminists who strongly oppose the claim of adult men that they should have the right to sexual assignations with youths.

Each group shares a similar characteristic. They allow no other opinions and they listen to nothing but their own voices. They have stagnated political growth and social change, less by their position, than by their personal obstinacy. Quite frankly, in many instances, they just don't seem very bright.

I have been cornered by factions of both sides. Everyone wants me to immediately agree with their position but deny me the right to think through this issue. Man/boy advocates thrust their fingers in my face and shout "You must support our position and the rights of young gay men." Feminists have been equally insistent. One woman recently ordered me "Until you take a stand against this issue, you have nothing to say to me."

Well, I have a lot to say on the subject and I find it one that needs some open forums, free inquiry and thoughtful deliberation.

First and foremost, I would like to tell the man/boy advocates that they should stop making this a "gay" issue. It clearly is a generational issue, the right of adults to sleep with minors. Heterosexual men, in similar proportion to gay men, are equally attracted and sexually involved with youths under 16, though in their experiences it is with girl children. I recently did a story on teachers and students in New York City because there was concern voiced about sexual encounters between gay male teachers and their boy students. I could find no one who knew of a single instance, though there are occasional scandals in the papers or whispers on the grapevine. However, almost every teacher I interviewed knew of at least one male heterosexual teacher who has had a relationship with a girl student, some being as young as 13.

It is unfair to gay men to single them out as child-lovers when it appears that it is a male, not a gay, characteristic. Youth is idolized and adored in our society. The nymphet ("Lolita" or "Candy") becomes the ultimate sexual score for multitudes of heterosexual men, in the same way that many gay men fantasize about young boys.

I repeat. It is more reflective of the male condition than the gay male . . . and if gay male activists insist on bringing this issue to the floor they should do it in its proper perspective.

To the feminists, I also have some thoughts which are contrary to their cemented position. There are differences between man/boy relations and man/girl encounters. I suspect many women

## bewilderment

Dear Editor,

I can only express bewilderment at Joyce Hunter's perspective. Her point of view is so narrow she seems to me to be against the very spirit of gay liberation. Her regard for humanity is so low that her conception of human interactions doesn't allow for consenting sexual relations between men and boys. She insultingly implies men can only rape boys. Kids, in her view, shouldn't have a right to fulfill their sexual needs as they choose, rather they need to be protected by the state. Isn't this the old "sit-down-and-shut-up, we-know-what-is-best-for-you" bullshit routine played on kids?

Has she bought the lies of our sex negative society which the age of consent laws clearly represent? Is she unaware that these laws are anti-sex and anti-gay? Does she support the heterosexual stranglehold these laws have on kids? Doesn't she realize the need gay kids have to explore their sexuality? Where else can these kids turn to for love and support if not to their gay brothers and sisters? Would she have us betray these kids to oblige her atavistic endorsement of legislative paternalism?

Has she no idea of the suffering these repressive laws have been used to cause? Like the Revere witchhunt for instance. Surely if we are ever going to be free to live and love as we chose these and other bigoted laws must go.

yours for liberation,  
Phil Knighton  
New York, NY

are recalling horrendous experiences of their own lives when adult men manipulated and coerced young lassies into sexually compromising positions. I have long worked with kids in trouble and am aware of the fact that a large percentage of female juvenile delinquents were victims of forced incest, from a stepfather, uncle or grandfather. There are strong arguments to curb the sexual accessibility of adult men and juvenile females.

In many instances, it is different with adult men and boys . . . particularly lads in the 14, 15 and 16 age group. Teenage boys are socialized and conditioned quite differently than their female counterparts. They already know what their sexual parameters and possibilities are. In homosexual encounters, they are as likely to be the seducer as the seduced.

There are always whispered fears of the small child being physically brutalized by a crazed adult. That is hardly the issue. The question at hand is to what extent is the male youth responsible for his sexual activity.

It is a curious situation. Most homosexual men will tell you that they had sexual encounters as teenagers, mostly with kids their own age. That is because the peers were accessible. Often, kids would attempt to find an adult willing to have a sexual relationship with them but the adult male was usually too frightened to have sex with a 15-year old. Heterosexual fathers cringe at the possibility of their sons having sex with an adult person. Yet, they almost seem to boast, as they wink and elbow, reflecting on their "first lay" when they were 16 with the girl down the block. She was usually 14 and frightened.

I have worked with a young man, now on probation for his having had a continuing relationship with an 11-year old boy. The man, who I will call Ralph, is a pleasant looking chap of 28 years. He informed me that he and the youngster had a friendship for months before they mutually masterbated. He related to me that the child set the ground rules for the frequency and type of sex which was to be had. The boy's mother was aware of it but did not see any damage to her son in the relationship. A neighbor reported her suspicions and an arrest, trial and sentencing resulted. Ralph insists that there were no victims other than himself who has been shamed, run out of town and has been considering suicide.

Conversely, many women have reported to me that they have been raped by a date. They also point out that no male judge would accept the notion that a woman can be raped by a man she knows.

There are endless examples which reveal the wide differences between male/male relations and male/female relations. In our society, men have the sexual power and be they youth or adult they know that. It makes a difference. Adult/boy relationships (depending upon the individual circumstances) do not cause the devastating traumas which some feminists insist will happen. I, and too many other adult gay males, have no scars from those infrequent meetings. On the other hand, gay males should place it all in the appropriate political perspective.

It is another instance of people shouting so loud, they can't hear anyone else.

David Rothenberg  
Executive Director,  
Fortune Society  
New York, NY

## back to basics

Dear Editor,

A novice, reading the gay press, might be sorely perplexed as to what "gay people" are, and what their movement is attempting to accomplish.

It is my conviction that the gay liberation movement has lost its bearings — that there is an urgent need for theoretical clarity, for rethinking of basic premises. With this in mind, I offer the following "basics." Though brief, they are not intended to be dogma; reasoned criticisms, thoughtful amendments and corrections will be welcomed.

### The Background

Human males are powerfully attracted to other males — erotically and emotionally. This attraction is not the product of peculiar life experiences of any sort, nor of hormonal imbalance, nor of genetic aberrations, nor any other such etiological foolishness. The male capacity to love another male is inborn, a phylogenetic characteristic of our species. If a man has any libido at all — if he is not a total eunuch — his libido has a homosexual component. As Mario Mieli expresses it: "Homosexual desire is universal!"

Therefore, the following definitions:

A *gay man* is a man who has recognized and accepted his desire and capacity to love another man.

A *straight man* is a man who has denied, consciously or unconsciously, his homoerotic impulses. He has not — as yet — the capacity to love another man.

Note that neither definition makes reference to women. Almost all gay men have had some amount of heterosexual experience, and it is assumed that most of the remainder would be capable of doing so, should the need arise.

### The Problem

For about 2500 years (dating from the Holiness Code of Leviticus) there has been a taboo on sex between males. The taboo on male homosexuality has been the most powerful taboo of all Judeo-Christian culture: an offense believed worse than murder, the "abominable and detestable crime against nature," the "unspeakable crime," the "sin so horrible that it must not be mentioned in the presence of Christians."

In consequence, gay men have been horribly persecuted over the centuries: stoned to death by the Jews; put to the sword, castrated, tortured, and burned at the stake by the Christians; and exterminated in Nazi concentration camps.

A powerful human desire — held down by a correspondingly powerful taboo. This is the problem: MEN ARE NOT FREE TO LOVE MEN.

### The Goal

The taboo on sex between males must be destroyed for all time. All sodomy statutes (the generic term for antihomosexual laws) must be abolished. All sexual superstition, all theological morality, must be replaced by rational, secular ethics. The morbidly restrictive Judeo-Christian outlook must be superseded by a reaffirmation that pleasures of the mind and body are intrinsically good. Life is good.

Gay men must reestablish the validity and beauty of male companionship, male friendship, and male love. We must preserve our heritage, which includes a noble tradition and much of the world's greatest literature.

### Diversions

Far too much of our energy has been spent in pursuing causes other than our own, in hopes that the "Left" will reciprocate by adding gay liberation to the Liberal/Radical/Revolutionary roster of approved causes. To some extent this has already happened, but to our detriment. Our struggle against superstition and tyranny, for the right to love each other, has been reduced to standard liberal egalitarianism: the efforts of still one more minority — "gay people" — to obtain "equal rights." In this framework, our struggle is essentially no different from that of the "disabled people," to whom *GCN* recently devoted an entire centerspread.

The greatest diversion, and the greatest source of divisiveness within our movement, has been "feminism." Gay men have been brainwashed into believing that feminism is so intimately linked to the gay liberation movement, that we must suspend our critical faculties and kowtow to anyone and anything "feminist."

The results have been disastrous. Feminists have disrupted and censored whatever displeased them. They have acted as conveyor belts bringing prudery and bigotry into the heart of the gay

liberation movement itself. (Three pamphlets cover these issues much more extensively: "Dangerous Trends in Feminism" (presentation to the 1976 GAU Conference), "Rape: Hysteria and Civil Liberties" (an essay-review of *Against Our Will*), and "Feminism & Censorship" (an exchange from *WIN Magazine*). Pamphlets are \$1 each postpaid from: Lauritsen, 26 St. Mark's Place, NYC, 10003.)

To appease the seemingly implacable feminists, the gay liberation movement has repudiated its own goals and traditions. Those who wished to sing the praises of Male Love have been drowned out by feminist choruses howling MALE HATE!

Feminists, raging like Juno against Ganymede, have proclaimed that pederasty is "not a gay issue." Deluded and self-hating gay men have agreed with them. So much for what the Greeks considered the highest form of love: pedagogical eros between man and youth.

The same feminists have demanded that gay men devote their energies to such nonsensical pursuits as combatting "classism" and "looksism." These, whatever they mean, apparently are "gay issues."

Not only have we been diverted from our natural priorities, but we have been gulled into supporting causes that are directly inimical to our own best interests.

The history of the homosexual rights movement, from the 19th century onwards, is a struggle against censorship. Notwithstanding, feminists have succeeded in foisting off their crusade against pornography as a "gay issue."

As gay men, our very self-definition is based on an appreciation of male companionship. Yet the feminists have succeeded in enlisting gay support for compulsory integration of the sexes in all areas of life, private as well as public. Gay men have complained in the pages of *GCN* that some gay bars have been known to exclude females. This is a perverse joke. Gay men have nothing whatever to gain by furthering the advance of the Unisex Monolith. On the contrary, we ought to demand that at least some sanctuaries remain where men can freely associate with their own kind.

Of course lesbian and women's groups have traditionally excluded men from membership and meetings. They are absolutely correct. And we should follow their lead.

The time has come for gay men to reclaim the gay liberation movement by bidding adieu to our sisters and becoming autonomous. The women who sincerely support gay liberation will understand perfectly our need for all-male groups.

However provoked, we should not become misogynists. We can work together with women in coalitions, joint actions, etc., provided we take care of our own movement. We should remember that women have their own struggle to wage, and that they themselves are the major victims of feminism, which, far from being a synonym for women's liberation, is actually a reactionary diversion from it. We ought to support the valid demands of the women's liberation movement, the same as those of other progressive movements.

At any rate, we must no longer be diverted from the tasks at hand, nor lose sight of our ultimate goals. Especially, gay men need to explore and rediscover how to relate to men. This requires an all-male environment, as it cannot be done in an atmosphere where female gendarmes are present to intrude at any time they feel that standards of feminist correctness are not adhered to (or, not incidentally, that they as women have not received enough attention from the men).

It would seem basic that women should not dictate the rules by which men conduct male relationships. Such issues as pederasty, transvestitism, S/M, "promiscuity," etc. are *men's* issues, to be evaluated by *men*, and it is as offensively impudent for women to dictate to us on these issues, as it would be for men to dictate to women whether they should wear makeup, create neologisms, or use dildoes.

Gay men have a right to male companionship, with or without the permission of women. We have a right to be ourselves, and as men — with men — for men — to fight for our own liberation.

IT IS ONLY BY MEN THAT MALE LOVE CAN BE FREED!

John Lauritsen  
New York, NY

## notice

*GCN* will be closed for a much-needed vacation during the week of August 18-22. There will be no paper published that week. Vol. 8, No. 7 will appear on newsstands on August 31.

## for civilization

Dear Editor,

I do not recall any of Leah Fritz's critics saying, that, as a heterosexual, she was not, or should not be, entitled to a voice in *GCN*.

Being for freedom of speech, and against censorship, I feel that anyone who wants it should be given a voice in *GCN*, even an anti-gay bigot, like Fritz.

For Civilization,  
Mark W. Bentley  
New York, NY

*GCN* welcomes letters to "Community Voices." If at all possible, your letters should be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Anonymous letters will not be published, but names will be withheld upon request. Letters should be addressed to Community Voices, *GCN*, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108.



# People's Con

continued from page 1  
gay theater group.

Ellen Turner, of the Lesbian and Gay Task Force of CPA, described the performance. "Two guys in the second row were drunk and making anti-gay comments and a guy on the side said 'Smash imperialist decadence.' Three guys sat down and said 'This is bullshit' (about the performance) and there were remarks in Spanish. I got nervous because there wasn't security and I thought something could happen to the performers." Shortly thereafter security did escort out the two drunk men who were the most abusive.

Most of the 50 lesbians and gay men at the caucus felt the lack of security came from a lack of sensitivity by many of the heterosexual organizers to the needs of lesbians and gays and from the need for a stronger commitment from all people present to fight against anti-gay and lesbian feeling.

The second major issue discussed was the presence of the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP). The RCP is a small Marxist-Leninist organization, and was one of many groups that had a table at the convention. It has a blatantly homophobic line, and many people at the caucus either wanted RCP ousted immediately or wanted a commitment from the coalition that it would not be allowed at future events.

The caucus approved a statement addressing these concerns that was later read to the convention.

The caucus also expanded the section of the original unity state-

ment concerning lesbians and gay men to include more than a demand for our full rights and the repeal of all anti-gay legislation. The addition, which was approved by the convention, read, "We recognize that full liberation for all our people will not be achieved by the passage or repeal of laws alone. Change happens as we pressure the institutions controlling us, as well as when we change ourselves. We are committed to our individual and collective struggle against racism, sexism, heterosexism, anti-semitism, classism, and other oppressive ideas and behavior patterns."

Leslie Cagan, a lesbian who has been active in CPA and who addressed the convention, spoke about the importance of unifying different struggles. "By broader movements taking up lesbian and gay issues, we can begin to raise all the ways people are oppressed and all the layers of control and domination. It broadens what the political struggle is all about for everybody to take up our issues. The right wing is building its power base not just on racism, heterosexism and sexism. It isn't simply denying certain people rights. It's a whole value system."

Lynette Oliver, a Puerto Rican lesbian doctor who works in the South Bronx, spoke with GCN about some of the problems achieving unity. "There is a lack of understanding in the gay community about what it's like to be living in the housing in this area and not have water or electricity because the city wants to save money — or to go to the poor

schools in this area. The South Bronx is the middle of a war zone, but is still strong and fighting. We will stand up, as gay men, lesbians, Puerto Ricans, Blacks, senior citizens and every other oppressed group fighting the system."

A feminist activist in the coalition, Joan Braderman, who spent many weeks prior to the convention working with other women and mostly black and hispanic construction workers in the South Bronx clearing the rubble at Charlotte St. and building up the site, spoke about her work. "We all worked together to build this and many contradictions came out. Real changes were made as men's minds were blown by women doing real work here. They began to understand what the women's movement is."

At the lesbian and gay rally on Sunday an openly lesbian delegate to the Democratic National Convention from Minnesota, Mary Puff, spoke about her conflicts. "I'm in there but I'd rather be out here with you. People inside Madison Square Garden are middle class and wealthy people who don't see our problems. I think we should form strong coalitions with other progressive movements and form a People's Party."

There was much talk at the People's Convention about the need to unite and to continue to work together. However, the future challenge is to make the People's Party not just a dream but a reality.

# NGTF Asks McDonald Vote Accountability

NEW YORK — The National Gay Task Force has released a list of members of the U.S. House of Representatives, giving their votes on the anti-gay McDonald Amendment to the Legal Services Corporation bill, which passed the House 290-113 several weeks ago (see GCN, Vol. 8, No. 5).

NGTF asks that supporters of lesbian and gay rights check out how their members of Congress voted. If the Congressman voted for the amendment, they ask that you write to her or him, state your feelings, ask for an explanation, and state that you will hold her or him accountable when you vote in November ("be sure the individual is running for reelection as some members retire," NGTF notes).

If the Congressman voted against the amendment, says NGTF, it is equally important that she or he receive letters expressing appreciation for the support. "An additional step is to get involved in that person's campaign for reelection by volunteering or contributing money to the effort," NGTF points out.


If the Congressman is listed as "not voting," the organization recommends writing a letter expressing concern about the absence during a crucial human rights vote and asking for an explanation.

In Massachusetts, Congressmembers Boland (District 2), Early (3), Heckler (10) and Moskley (9) voted for the amendment, while Conte (1), Donnelly (11), Drinan (4), Markey (7), Shannon (5), and Studds (12) voted against it and for a pro-lesbian and gay rights position. Mavroules (6) was absent.

Connecticut's Giamo (3), Rhode Island's Beard (2), Vermont's Jeffords (A.L.), New Hampshire's Cleveland (2) and D'Amours (1), and Maine's Emery (1) and Snowe (2) all voted for the amendment. Connecticut's McKinney (4) and Moffett (6) were the only New England representatives, aside from those from Massachusetts, who opposed the amendment. Rhode Island's St. Germain (1) was not present for the vote.

To write your member of Congress, address your letter to Congressman (name), House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. To obtain a complete list of how members of Congress voted, write NGTF, 80 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011 or call (212) 741-5800.

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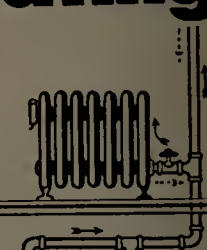


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# Odyssey of a Unicorn

## My Boss Comes Out

By Nancy Walker

One of life's perpetual perturbations is the matter of work-survival, making the bread. In December 1979 I left a job where the boss referred to himself as "the token straight," and I began working in civil service. Now, everyone has heard rumors about how bad conditions are for civil service workers, at least for those on the lowest levels, and my level was the one below which no one can sink.

I came to work the first day expecting to be locked in a dungeon with a filing cabinet, no windows, no toilet, and no cold water. Perhaps a single bare bulb above my head so I could see the cabinet. If I were not to be alone with this cabinet, surely my co-workers would all smoke and play loud rock music on several different stations at once.

When I report to the office by which I was hired, I am told to wait for my assignment. I dutifully wait, looking around at the space I am now occupying. This is surely no dungeon. But neither is this where I am going to toil away my hours. I am at last told where to go and given a slip of paper with a name on it.

I go where I am bidden and ask for the person whose name is on the paper. I sit at the desk I am informed is to be mine. So where's my dungeon??? I have my own phone, an electric typewriter and a

lovely chair with casters. The floor is carpeted, the lighting is very adequate. There are windows overlooking Historic Boston, past and present. There are closets for coats and closets for water, and probably for me, if things get rough. There is even a drinking fountain. And nary a radio playing anywhere. Can this be true, or have they given me the wrong assignment? I wait and wonder.

I don't have too much time to think about personal matters because I am inundated with work that first day. Meanwhile, on my first lunch hour, I go to the GCN office and announce that I think one of my bosses is gay. (I have to work for three people) The young man, "Jack," walking down the street, would never make me think he's gay. But I met him in a context where he was interacting with other people, some of whom were women. When a handsome, virile, charming male, in this society, does not treat women like either inferiors or meat, I suspect that he is gay. I suppose there were other factors that made my lavender radar set react, but I don't know how to articulate them. In any case, I made my pronouncement at home and at the newspaper office.

Jack is disorganized and constantly rushing about. I tell him on the first day that I know he is going to be my "problem child" He nods assent. Oy Vey. Mostly

he is nice, that is, when he thinks about it. He is preoccupied and does the work of at least three people. He is totally dedicated to his profession. I am forced to admire him, but I know we are on a collision course because when he gets too involved in his work, he acts as if his is the only work worthy of consideration. He will therefore interrupt me, no matter what I'm doing, in order to get me to do something for him.

After a few months on the job, I see a picture emerging that I don't particularly relish. I am working my ass off and nobody else among the "support staff" is working so hard. But I have three bosses, two of whom produce enough work for one whole secretary a piece. I don't mind working hard, but I don't want to be a fool. I also know that I have a six-month probation period to live out.

During my first six months, therefore, I am fairly quiet and subdued (You'd have to know me to know what that means), but I have a few skirmishes with Jack, whose orientation fades in and out in my vision. One day my original impression is reinforced, the next day, it is reversed, and so it goes, see-sawing back and forth.

Jack has suggested early on that he wants me for his own secretary. His major problem is time-management. If he can find a secretary who will save him time,

he wants her/him. I understand that the reason he wants me is not because he lusts after me . . . not even as a friend. He wants me to do his work because he knows I can do it.

Not too long after I agree to be Jack's exclusive clerical property, my six months is up and I am, in theory, a permanent employee. My closet door is about to come off its hinges. I always find it difficult to leave the paper out of my conversations. I never leave it out of my life. I have been going to GCN office every day during my lunch hour and working on the classifieds, etc. Also speculating about Jack, of course.

My co-workers are wonderful. They are friendly and helpful, very generous spirited individuals who happen to refer to themselves as "girls," though some of them are grandmothers. They are genuinely sweet-natured people, most of them with families to support and households to manage. I respect them and admire them for who and what they are, and I honestly believe that most of them could deal eventually with my true identity, even though they are religious and might initially experience some misgivings. They know me well enough without a bedroom itinerary. They know me as a worker and a very amusing person.

We get along. I am quite sure that they like me. I am willing to

state publicly that all the crap you hear about Civil Service jobs is not universally true. Nothing clears the cobwebs out of one's head like a positive experience contrary to negative expectations.

On Monday, July 14, Jack comes into the office as brown as a berry, blue eyes flashing in the sun-tanned face. He looks delicious. He needs a letter written, and tells me to write it and give it to him to sign. After signing the letter he says, "You write awfully well. Do you ever do anything with your writing abilities?" I demurely reply, "I certainly do."

Later he says, "You went across the country last summer, didn't you?" I answer in the affirmative. Finally, he hunkers down next to my desk and reveals, "I was reading one of my favorite publications this weekend, and I was reading one of my favorite columns about a unicorn . . . Are you *that* Nancy Walker?" "I thought you'd never ask," is my rejoinder.

So, here we are, at long last, officially introduced. It must have been a race to open the closet door. I had been toying with the idea of ever so subtly giving him a copy of GCN, opened to one of my columns. He is so cute — asking the questions, adding up the answers and finally coming out.

Jack told me that he had been reading my columns for almost

Continued on Page 13

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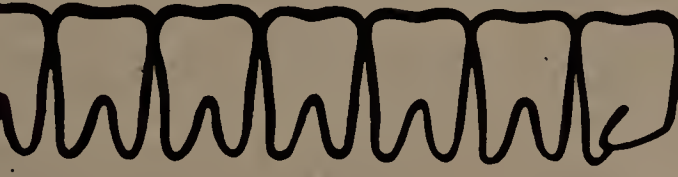
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# Gays Talk About Registration and the Draft

By Jil Clark

The summer of 1980 has witnessed resurrection of registration as well as a movement to resist registration and its proven to be inevitable successor, the draft. Registration laws, buried in 1973 by a decade of exhausting lobbying and non-cooperation by protestors of the Viet Nam War, were born-again under the Carter administration to serve as "a signal" to the world that America is prepared to fight another war, specifically in the Persian Gulf.

However, between July 21 and August 1, hundreds of thousands of male youths sent a message back to Carter and the Pentagon. According to W. Barry Lynn, chairperson of the Committee Against Registration and the Draft (CARD), between a quarter and one million of the estimated four million 18-to-20 year-olds ordered to register during the last two weeks of July did not.

"There are more than 500,000 felons who have been created by the program," said Lynn. Carter and the Justice Department "can't possibly track down, prosecute and punish or imprison this number of people."

The *New York Times* reported on August 5th that 31% of those ordered to register in Seattle never showed up, 20% never showed up in Phoenix, 33% in Chicago, 40% in Boston, 44% in Atlanta. (The Post Office will release a final count on or by November 1st.)

Why this massive resistance among the younger siblings of the so-called "me generation"? In part, we must attribute the registration drive's failure to non-cooperation (as opposed to conscious, politically-informed resistance) by the cynical youth who learned while in grade school that the U.S. Military could be "on the wrong side" and that our leaders are sometimes corrupt.

Credit is also due to the efforts of the anti-registration organizations which sprang up across the country this spring. Many lesbians and gay men can be found working in these organizations. This shouldn't surprise us, since we know that there are lesbians and gay men involved in all movements for social change — sometimes, as in the feminist and men's movements, in numbers disproportionately large relative to our presence in the general population.

Or is it surprising? After all, lesbians and gay men are not draftable. Why then, are lesbians and gay men organizing against it? This article will explore the relationship of lesbians and gay men to the draft, as well as the questions, "Why are some lesbians and gay men in favor of the draft?" and "Why do some lesbians and gay men support the military?"

All analyses aside, how does registration and the draft concretely affect gay men and (in the event that the Supreme Court, free of the constituency ties that have bound the wings of the hawks of Congress, calls for conscription of women) lesbians? Every 18-to-20 year old lesbian and gay man must choose, consciously or by default, one of three courses of action:

S/he can register, be drafted, and, once in the service, conceal her/his sexuality or else . . . be persecuted and possibly courtmartialed and ousted from the military with a less than honorable discharge.

S/he can register and check off "yes" in answer to the query: "Have you ever had a homosexual experience?" Anyone opting to "come out" to the

Selective Service System should expect to be harassed when s/he goes before the military personnel at the draft review board, which has in the past required psychiatric exams and interrogation of friends and relatives. All who are exempted for gayness will have that fact printed on their permanent record, which will be available to employers, government agencies and universities.

S/he can refuse to register. This option carries with it the threat of five years in jail or \$10,000 fine. Few non-registrants were prosecuted during the Viet Nam War.

The draft creates a no-win situation for lesbian and gay male 18-20 year olds. (20-to-26 year-olds may want to hold their breath until after November 4.) On paper, at least, are no attractive options — just a choice of where you take your punishment for being lesbian or gay: in the military or in prison. A draft counselor would probably advise a lesbian or gay man not to register, gambling on the Justice Department's not prosecuting hundreds of thousands of non-registrants.

Clearly, the draft is inimical to lesbians and gay men on an *empirical* level. On what *philosophical* grounds are lesbians and gay men opposed to forced conscription into the military?

"The army uses hatred of women, of effeminate men, of anything nurturant, to turn men into animals," says Mary Burns, a member of Boston's Women Organized to Resist the Draft (WORD). Mary recalls an account of military life she'd read, in which a sergeant humiliated and made an example of the soldier-in-training who was the slowest jogger in his patrol. "The soldier kept stumbling and eventually the sergeant goaded the other guys into running circles around the guy as he lay on the ground, while the sergeant was shouting about how no bunch of goddamn little girl faggots who can't run seven miles is gonna survive in *his* army . . .

"As a lesbian and as a woman, I am doubly aware of how twisted the values are in this culture. A culture that condemns my loving but exalts war is perverted. Their call to fight for freedom doesn't ring very true when I don't have the freedom to walk down the street holding my lover's hand."

"Except for recent S&M crew cut, gay men have always been soft, imaginative, flamboyant," says Tom Reeves, a long-time anti-draft activist and author of *The End of the Draft* (published originally in 1970 by Random House and still available in Vintage paperback.) "Maybe some men would be attracted to guns and warheads and other phallic imagery."

"Consciously, gay people are rebels, have refused to accept the authority of the church, family and state," says Reeves. "A gay man spends his life breaking the rules. Sexual discipline is one of the first disciplines you learn. You don't touch your cock. A scout is 'clean.' The boy scout handbook specifically mentions sexual cleanliness . . . and as the scout ages, the discipline becomes pseudo-military."

"I think gay people ought to be opposed to the draft because they ought to understand that it is a tool of the paternalistic, authoritarian state that oppresses them. The draft is the most evil power of the state: conscription of the body. That's why I would oppose it with my life."

"Registration itself is an evil: registering all people to file their names with the state. We [the U.S.] are one of the few liberal, capitalist societies where everyone needn't register with the police."

Mike Riegle, another gay anti-draft activist, sees the draft as a fundamental violation of civil liberties, "something that we as lesbians and gay men are familiar with." He also thinks that the registration law is creating another type of "victimless crime." After his arrest at a Boston anti-draft demonstration on July 21, he commented, "As lesbians and gay men, we have first hand experience of how arbitrary a law can be. Victimless crimes: gay men know about these. In some states, you can be put in jail for having sex with a kid who could have thoroughly enjoyed it."

Leslie Cagan, from Mobilization for Survival, feels that the experience of being a lesbian or gay male influences us on a broad range of political issues, and causes us to empathize with other oppressed peoples. In this way, she contends, her opposition to forced conscription and imperialist war are rooted at least partially in the insight she has gained as a lesbian.

"Whether or not they (the heads of the government) know this, there's something about our oppression that makes us more caring . . . keeps a certain sensitivity alive in us. Maybe it's because we are denied the [privilege] of being who we really are. . . . Sometimes I think that if we were treated equally in this country, we would lose this sensitivity."

"In my experience, gay men are more tuned in to

feelings, more concerned about human interactions. This kind of caring runs counter to what the military machine is all about: desensitizing and robotizing. . . . In this deep way, the military is threatened by having many gay people in it."

"Since I was very little, I've been sensitive to other people's oppression," says Bob Andrews, a white army veteran. "I always identified with blacks. I understood their anger and pain and I didn't know why. Later, when I realized I was gay, I looked back and realized that was why."

Leslie sees registration as a prelude to draft and war — nuclear war, which, she predicts, will be accompanied by intensified political/police control — including a clamp-down on the lesbian and gay movement.

"The military is the defender of our system — of our economic system and educational system. It is used to keep other people around the world in their place, as well as people in this country, like gays and women and blacks and the poor. . . . This country is moving toward war. Even if we don't have a war, there's a war mentality . . . which keeps people, again, in their place. Once you've got war fever going, in the name of national security all sorts of movements are repressed. They don't want people asking questions, causing 'trouble.'"

Pat Bond, who appeared in the film *Word Is Out*, joined the WAVES just after World War II. She vehemently opposes the draft because of the ugly experience she had at the hands of lesbian-hating commanders. She recalls how eager she was to join the military — "I assumed the military was a giant gay bar and I could hardly wait" — and contrasts that with how she felt after she was sent back home from Tokyo, one of 500 victims of a witch hunt.

"Call it a descent into hell. . . . One of our kids at age 20 killed herself. She jumped out the window. Captain Higgins and Colonel Burgess — they had killed her."

"Of course, the horrible thing was that it was lesbians who betrayed us over and over again . . . with General McArthur behind them. He brought American women over there to show Japanese women how free we were. But when he saw all those dykes, the first thing he said was 'Get them out of here and I don't care how.' But he was practicing on 20 year old girls. I still don't know how many of them were gay. Many of them had never had a sexual experience."

"They took us in, in drag. Don't tell me a psychiatrist interviewing a woman in a pin striped suit with a butch haircut didn't know she was gay. . . . And those women did one hell of a good job for the military. They could take a bus motor apart and put it back together blindfolded . . ."

"The double tragedy is that we were very patriotic . . . because it was just after the war. . . . And then to be treated like we were less than human. . . . Would they have accepted us if we had just fucked, had children for Jesus and country?"

Bob Andrews is another veteran opposed to the draft. During the Viet Nam War, he partially blinded himself in an abortive attempt to escape the draft. When he realized that neither his blind spot nor his bursitis nor his hernia would get him an exemption, he played his last card: "I'm gay." With that, the military's treatment of him took a sadistic turn:

"I walked back in the door for my pre-induction physical and they started hollering 'faggot' and 'queer' in front of everyone. That's how they get you: they humiliate you into denying you're gay."

After one week of threats by the Criminal Investigation Department, and a psychiatrist's interrogations, an army attorney said he could get out with a dishonorable discharge. "But if I had accepted a discharge I would have had to endure another week of really intense harassment. And they were threatening to tell my parents. I was a coward. I could have gotten out but I was too intimidated."

"They shave your head, strip your clothes off and then they yell at you. The little bit of nurturing you get along the way wins you over, makes you feel like the military is taking care of you."

In Bob's first week, his sergeant approached him without warning and ripped off his stripes (he was a corporal), snarling, "You've got too many problems to wear these, boy." Bob's captain promised him it wouldn't happen again.

"From then on, I had preferential treatment from the Sergeant. . . . Each time someone cared and came to my rescue, I was touched and became that much better a soldier."

"There are a lot of people who were broken by the military. You learn to adjust or else. They don't like suicide. If you attempt suicide, you're ostracized. If you don't straighten up, they send you to a unit for misfits."

"They let a lot of gay men into the service. They



pick out those who will cooperate. Once I got over taking the shit, it was easy to stay in and do nothing. I got taken care of. I was supposed to be at work at 8:00, but I never got there before 9:30, and I left promptly at 4:00 and went into San Francisco, where I had boyfriends. I got paid for doing nothing and I got to eat free. And you could still advance. I was Soldier of the Month. Most of the men who were Soldier of the Month were gay — because they cared enough to press their pants and fit their uniforms so they looked nice. The military likes that.

"I left the military seeing all the good and none of the bad. But since the anti-draft movement started up again, I'm getting back in touch with my other feelings . . . about how the military is anti-gay and uses intimidation and peer pressure. How it promotes a sense of false macho and patriotism."

Linda (not her real name) opposes registration because she feels the army is anti-lesbian and anti-woman. To her relief, she was released after serving only a few months after she was seriously injured in a car accident, returning to her base from a heterosexual party. "Ironically I'd been covering my tracks by going to a party with a man. Lots of women did that.

"I was paranoid about being found out. When I was at Fort Devens in 1975, two women in my barracks challenged the army to let them stay in as lesbians. There were at least 15 other lesbians in my barracks, and they were all dispersed or discharged. (The army couldn't get two witnesses to testify against all of them.) But I didn't associate myself with any of them. A lot of them were young and coming out seemed like a good, liberal thing to do, but in the army there aren't any good liberals. In the army, any two women who walked together were harassed as dykes by guys.

"Women have a real hard time in the military because there are such a small number of us. Men in the service just assume that any woman in the service is either a whore or a lesbian. . . . [Straight] men harass gay men more than they harass lesbians. Men consider dykes erotic, exciting. And you're much more accepted if you are butch dyke because you are playing a role men can identify with."

David (not his real name), who served in the Air Force from 1974 to 1977, feels that the draft is "unnecessary. If the military treated their own better — treated them like people instead of animals — they could keep more people in it."

David hated the haircuts, the regimentation, the power plays and the "macho-male, heterosexual shop talk" of the military. He also hated himself.

"I came out in the military. After I had my first sexual encounter, I was too nervous to talk to anybody about it for fear of a court martial.

"The Matlovitch trial was going on while I was in. I talked about that with some straight men who were ready to beat the shit out of him. He didn't deserve to exist. It made me feel like shit. I felt I didn't belong there. Everything in our society makes you feel that way, but the military has laws against it: 'behavior unbecoming of an airman'."

Though David thinks military justice is "a joke" and he doesn't like the fact that there's no room for emotion, he doesn't hate the military. He believes "you need lines of command and lack of feeling in a combat situation." David isn't opposed to the draft because he believes we need a large military force — "for defense . . . for our country's benefit, not so we can intervene in another country's business for their benefit.

"Besides," he says, "if they want you they'll take you whether you're registered or not. I would not register at all until after the presidential election. If Reagan wins, I wouldn't register because I think he's a button-pusher."

Many lesbians and gay men do not oppose the draft; some vigorously defend it.

John (not his real name), currently a legal yeoman in the Navy, has only one complaint to register about the draft. "It's too selective. Why do they need to weed out so many — people with disabilities and homosexuals? Because they want only big, macho, heterosexual guys."

John is anxiously awaiting his discharge this September. He said that even though the Navy gives more honorable discharges to gay men and lesbians than any other branch of the service, it's still no place for gay people.

"Some commanding officers don't care as long as you do your job well. But that's extremely rare, because most commanding officers are from the old Navy, and would feel compelled by Navy rules and regulations to discharge you even if personally they don't care. If they really want to get sticky about gay people, they can imprison you for sodomy or attempted sodomy, but they'd get in too much trouble from the outside."

John feels the draft would be unnecessary if the

military paid better salaries, but he does not oppose the draft. He feels draft resistance is "their prerogative . . . just like it's my prerogative to choose what I do in my bedroom."

He claims that most men and women in the Navy don't want the U.S. to send 18 to 20 year olds — "only kids really" — to intervene in the affairs of Russia and Afghanistan. "It's the higher-ups who are the patriots. They call Viet Nam a conflict. They realize it wasn't right so they can't call it a war. But for us, if there were shots being fired back and forth, that's a war."

Jane (not her real name) is a second class petty officer in the coast guard, where she has served as a reservist for five years. She is enthusiastic about the draft: "I'm in favor of the draft because I think the intelligence level of the personnel in every service but the coast guard and possibly the air force is very poor. They're untrained and many of them are stupid. I wouldn't associate with people in the army. I think if you have a draft, just by sheer numbers you increase the numbers of intelligent men and women in the military."

Jane, who gravitated toward the Coast Guard because it is involved in "saving lives instead of taking them" defines herself as being anti-war.

"I'm opposed to war and never want to see it happen. I don't want South American 'junta-ism' or sword clashing here. I think it's extremely healthy to have people opposed to war in the military."

"Of course you're going to get griping when people are drafted. That's healthy. There's something peculiar about someone who wants to get up at 4 a.m. and carry a 50 pound knapsack. But I'd rather see the citizen soldier who does her/his job for two years and then goes back to their job, school, whatever. Swelled military ranks don't increase the chance of aggressiveness. It's healthy to have people in the military who would perhaps rather be somewhere else; they can dilute the more gung-ho military types."

As a woman and as a lesbian Jane thinks it is imperative that the U.S. maintain "a strong military force . . . women are better off in the U.S. than in Iran, for example. I think ours is the best system that's going. Look at how many freedoms the Soviets have, and the Ayatollah is shooting gay people and women in Iran. . . . I would like to hear a rational argument from the left wing forces that are supporting the Ayatollah about how the U.S. should not engage in cultural imperialism. With the execution of women and homosexuals in Iran, shouldn't we believe in cultural imperialism?"

Sue (not her real name), veteran of the army and currently a specialist fifth class in the National Guard, enjoys the military and "doesn't mind" the draft.

"I think two years experience in the military can't hurt anybody."

Not even gay people?

"Gays in the military are good for the gay movement because they provide [non-gay people] with more exposure. Granted there are a lot of real machos in the military, but there are also a lot who don't give a rat's ass what you do as long as you do your job.

"I never was part of a witch hunt when I was in the regular army, though I saw a lot going on — always because somebody got loose-lipped and started causing trouble. But the armed forces couldn't discharge every gay or bi person in it; there would be gross depletion of the military from generals on down.

"The worst things about the military are the sexual harassment and dishonorable discharges for lesbians. The guys in the regular army are absolute pigs. But I would run into this anywhere. As for their anti-gay stand, I won't get bumped out of the National Guard. I'd have to do something outrageous."

Sue doesn't see herself as condoning rape and war by belonging to the military. "I know that rape happened a lot in Viet Nam, but I'm not going to leave a job that's good for me. . . . I support the army as far as defense goes.

"As long as there are men in the army who are sexist pigs rape will continue. I don't have any control over that any more than I have control over any woman around me being raped.

"I don't see myself as condoning witch hunts because I stay in and I don't condone war, but I think it's the only way to get things done. This may sound schmaltzy, but if it hadn't been for people who were willing to fight for this country, we wouldn't be here. Gay people might not be here."

The military has an official policy of the exclusion of homosexuals — and a somewhat less official policy of making them miserable while "inside." Undoubtedly military higher-ups — some of whom must be gay — still believe that homosexuality is a

sickness. Regardless, the official excuse for retaining their anti-gay laws is this: gay men and lesbians are a threat to military security because we are more susceptible to blackmail than straight men and women. By this logic, homosexuals are twice made victims. We are first shunted into closets as punishment for being gay, then we are penalized for having to hide in our closets. Doesn't the fault (the solution) lie with those who are trying to set up closets in the first place?

Despite this ugly bias, there are many lesbians and gay men in the service. Most are closeted, a fortunate few are tolerated, though ever-vulnerable, and always some are facing courts martial. How do those lesbians and gay men who condemn the military as misogynist and homophobic feel about the struggle of other lesbians and gay men to gain legitimacy in the military? Will the army draft openly gay men and openly lesbian women? If it does, will we have gained or lost human rights? What would such a military be like?

Says Leslie Cagan, "The right of lesbians and gay men to join the military is a complicated issue for me. We've been fighting for the right to belong to any institution but at the same time I don't see the military as a goal — especially a military formed by a draft. We want equal rights for housing, jobs, etc., but not equal rights to be drafted. We must maintain clarity about this and not say 'if some are going to be drafted, we all want to be drafted.'"

About the claim that there's a trend now away from court-martialing gay people in the military, Cagan answers, "We must be careful with trends. The wind blows one way one year, another way the next. There's enough history in this country of severe repression of gay people in the military to make me sceptical: the witch hunts in the '50s, the McCarthy Army investigations which were the backbone of Senator Joseph McCarthy's career."

Leslie is also concerned that lesbians and gay men, in striving to gain the military's approval, may compromise themselves as a group. "We have to take responsibility for what we do. Leonard Matlovitch, for example, I don't agree with. He didn't just defend his right to be in the military; he defended his participation in Viet Nam. There are plenty of guys who fought in Viet Nam and realized it was bad and retracted their support."

"I think the military will drop its prohibition against lesbians and gay men piece by piece" says Tom Reeves. "But I'm not thrilled. It's like the Nazi party saying that they'll allow gay men and lesbians in. . . . I think that the state is giving in because of organized movements and because they don't want to miss out on the talents of women, queers and blacks."

Some people are bemoaning the fact that gay men will lose their "escape hatch" if being homosexual no longer grants a deferment. However, Reeves points out that "During the sixties many straight men without ego problems chose to get out of the military by saying they were gay. A lot of gay men today are scared to use that route and I don't think it was used by many gay men in the past."

Pat Bond thinks that "if we're going to have an oil war, they'll need all the bodies they can get. Gay people will get drafted. Unfortunately there are gay people who want a military career, god knows why."

"I don't think I'll see gay people accepted by the military in my lifetime" says David. "Drafted but not openly gay."

An American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) pamphlet entitled *I'm Gay/They Won't Draft Me . . . Or Will They?*, lists the options that the Selective Service System would probably present to gay men and lesbians if it no longer exempts them from military service. Most likely, the SSS would require alternative service for two years, like that which has been granted with Conscientious Objector status in the past. Or the SSS might simply accept lesbians and gay men into the military in response to increasing demands for personnel. Another possibility is that gay men and lesbians could be drafted but restricted to non-combatant status, as all women are now, performing technical, clerical, and other support duties. Or there is a remote possibility that "gay combat battalions could be formed." Separate, homogeneous units have been created by the armed forces in the past. Blacks served in segregated units in both world wars.

Anthony Ricco, a member of Gays Against the Draft, a sub-group of AFSC in San Francisco, commented that "formation of gay battalions clearly isn't possible now, but might be in ten years.

"I will be surprised" Ricco continued "if there isn't some kind of punitive measure against gays. The army doesn't want people to use the gay exemption and now, without student deferments, a lot of young gay men are going to have to face the question of whether to come out to the military."



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## Art

## Amazon Art

### The Boston Great American Lesbian Art Show

34 Farnsworth Street, Third Floor  
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Wheelchair Accessible  
August 3 - 30, 1980

By Andrea Loewenstein

I was feeling fragile, new, and receptive, having just returned to the city after a month on an island where the big event of the day is the 11:30 mail boat, and people smile and say hello in passing, even if it's the middle of the night on a deserted beach. In the city where the main thing is to build a protective wall to block out random hostility, where one walks with a curse waiting on the lips and a careful eye on the nearest safety exit, it is hard not to let the wall block out everything, even those things worth seeing, like peoples' faces, or the way shadows fall on a brick wall.

It is hard to come back, yes, but for a while anyway, you can see better, and I felt stunned by the beauty of the faces I saw on the subway on my way to see the GALAS exhibit, and hoped that the exhibit itself would allow this sense of vision and even nourish it, although I must confess I had my doubts. I knew that it was not a juried show — in other words that everything sent in had been exhibited. I feared a preponderance of smiling moon-goddess amazons or Judy Chicago imitations. I feared, too, the emergence of my sarcastic, critical self, or, even barring that, the necessity to lower my standards, to condescend or excuse.

I am glad to report that my fear was utterly unfounded. The art (paintings, mixed media, photography, and sculpture) exhibited was of a uniformly and startlingly high artistic quality. Styles, approaches, and philosophies of the exhibiting artists clearly varied — a seriousness of purpose and high level of skill and craftsmanship did not. This feeling of fine artistry and work which deserves to

take itself seriously was developed, and encouraged by the physical space of the gallery. The loft is high ceilinged, clear, white and very spacious. Each painting is appropriately, simply, and elegantly framed, with ample space around it, and each sculpture is well mounted, at eye-viewing level. Nowhere is there a feeling of clutter or rush. While most of the works by a particular artist are grouped together, this principle is departed from when a difference in theme or media within one artist's work makes for a more interesting or appropriate placement somewhere else. It is partly this careful grouping and arrangement of the works which gives one such a strong feeling of a show which, unlike many group shows, is not a random grouping of widely disparate artists who have in common only the desire to exhibit, but rather an organic and pleasing whole.

It is, of course, more than the arrangement of the show which conveys this feeling of a shared sensibility. The expression "seriousness of purpose" comes up again here, because, unlike a great deal of modern (male or male-identified) art, none of these works were some kind of mean joke on anyone — neither the viewer, nor the artist herself. I do not mean to suggest that the show is humorless, because many of the pieces — Ann O'Connell's wonderful embroidered and appliqued Closet Pieces; C.T. McKee's "Winds of the Heart," a very literal heart with a window of windy, cloudy sky inside it; or Margite Brierre's "City Woman" watercolor, a whimsical and sensuous woman embroidered with the flowers, river, and skyscrapers of her environment — were deeply playful, and often funny. I mean, rather, that the sense of alienation, meaninglessness and even hatefulness which is so common in male art was completely missing here, a rather amazing accomplishment considering the state of siege

that these artists as women, lesbians and (many of them) women of color, live in. The pain is there (the woman in Karyn An dev Black's "Portrait of Rape" almost leaps off the wall in inarticulate, raucous and splintered outrage) and the anger as well. C.T. McKee's "Forced Birth," a skeletal woman whose fleshless hands clasp something awful she has ejected out of herself and into a bleak and starving world, is hard to look at in its terrible pain and rage. Yet these two paintings, like the other less "positive" works in the show, are paintings of desperate protest and of the will to change, *not* of hopeless despair.

Another commonality that each of these works by lesbians share is their accessibility and personal quality. Out of the work of over 60 artists, I found not one piece which failed to speak to me (a non-visual artist) in a personal and intimate way. Vicki Gabriner's "menstrual journey," while one of the most abstract in terms of its non-representative quality, was deeply personal in its whimsical evocation of this shard experience. I was amazed to learn just how personal still-lives, which I have often found boring, *can* be. Gloria McInsay's silkscreen of a purple and yellow bowl of borscht was so opening and comforting at the same time that I longed to hang it in my own kitchen where I could look at it and feel happy every morning. Lizzie Brown's delicate, precise onions in watercolor and cut paper gave me a feeling of a sustaining and ordered inner life; a life in which ordinary things mattered and were noticed, and Abby Zimberg's "Still Life in Black and White," a painting of eggs in a basket with light and delicate, caressing shadow over the rounded shapes was both beautiful and highly sensual. Ellen Gabriner's huge soft paintings of roses seemed to float rather than hang in the room. I found one of her paintings in particular, a single

continued on page 12

### JACK RUBIN: ON THE ELDERLY

Any legislation concerning the elderly should be of prime interest to us all. By supporting the concerns of the elderly, we're not only assisting those whom experience has made our role models and teachers. We're not only working to produce and maintain a comfortable lifestyle for the elderly. We're paving the way to our own futures, our own elderly years, as well.

As State Representative, I would work to:

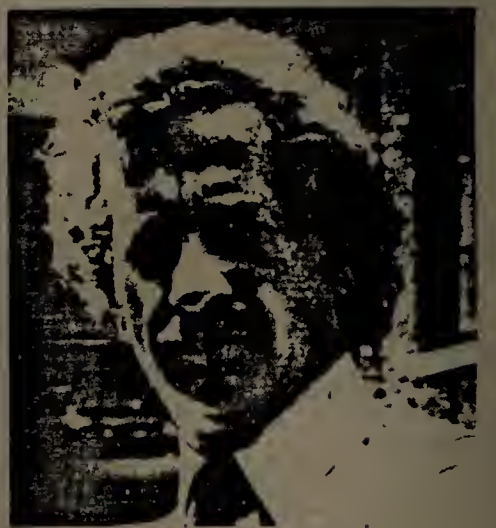
☐ *Change mandatory retirement to voluntary retirement*  
Many elderly people oppose forced retirement and it's easy to see why. To prevent someone from working solely on the basis of age is a disgrace. Should a person have the desire, talent and experience to work, an arbitrary factor like age should not prevent that person from doing so.

☐ *Oppose the factors that contribute to the displacement of the elderly*

Whether it's from pressure to move caused by a tight housing market or the lack of home care services causing an elderly person to be placed in a nursing home, a number of our elderly residents fear displacement. I will work to guarantee the elderly the right to remain in the homes, in their neighborhoods.

☐ *Improve state and city services*

I want to see that the city and state services available are efficiently run and delivered to the elderly. For example, the elderly lunch program contains duplication and, at times, insensitivity to the various dietary needs of the diverse elderly in the Eighth Suffolk district. I favor the elderly lunch programs but I feel they can be better managed.



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# Film

## My Buddy, Myself

### My Bodyguard

Starring Chris Makepeace, Adam Baldwin

Directed by Tony Bill

A Melvin Simon Production/  
Twentieth Century Fox

By Pat M. Kuras

*My Bodyguard* is the latest entry among teenage trauma movies. The story concerns one Clifford Peache, a new student entering his sophomore year of high school. Like James Dean's character in *Rebel Without A Cause*, on his first day at school young Peache commits some social blunders in an attempt to win friends; these mistakes put him on the wrong side of a gang of bullies. To further complicate things, the leader of the gang, Mooney (Matt Dillon), heads an extortion racket. The schoolkids, mostly unwillingly, give their lunch money to Mooney and his thugs in order to be protected from bullies. In addition to having already insulted Mooney, Peache refuses to pay into the racket.

Peache, as played by Chris Makepeace, offers the audience little magnetism. Aside from his little boy grins and puppy-dog-pattable cuteness, he does little to convey his inner struggles and emotions. In hopes of warding off the bullies, Peache reaches out to



Linderman (Adam Baldwin), a silent brooding classmate who towers above his peers. (Linderman is reputed to have shot a cop, raped a teacher and committed other atrocities. Everyone fears him and stays clear, bullies included.) Linderman becomes

Peache's bodyguard. The scenes between these two are touching and tender, even though their acting abilities are mediocre. It is charming to watch this same-sex friendship between adolescents; unfortunately, the script deviates from such niceties. In their relent-

less high school world, the good guys and bad guys (as well as the plot line) must come to a resolution of sorts. The film's climax is a violent confrontation, a fist-fight between the heroes and villains.

It's disappointing to see this effort placed on promoting mindless machismo. I'm reminded of the fight scene in *Cool Hand Luke*, in which Paul Newman is clobbered by George Kennedy. Newman, despite the beating he gets, keeps rising shakily to his feet and continues to throw feeble punches at Kennedy. He's got to *be a man*. Likewise, with *My Bodyguard* — the film's message is that the only way you can maintain your individuality and pride is to physically

batter your opponent. And, if you don't resort to fisticuffs, then you must be queer.

This film has a subplot concerning Peache's homelife with relatives played by Martin Mull and Ruth Gordon. Mull gives what is perhaps the least offensive performance of his career while Gordon has been reduced to playing a caricature of her *Harold and Maude* role. This lesser plot really doesn't mesh well with the larger story of bullies and bodyguards. It's a shame that *My Bodyguard* couldn't have had a more coherent structure, or that it couldn't concentrate more on the power of friendships.

## Gay Teens

continued from page 3

should not be separated as two distinct groups. A gay adolescent will soon be the gay adult concerned with getting a job and dealing with the 'straight' society."

The final part of the meeting included participants' suggestions of future MCCY directions for supporting gay youth. Some of the suggestions included MCCY's aid in helping the Gay Speakers Bureau to get speakers into the school and into PTA meetings, support for future gay legislation, a call for "rational" sex education programs in the schools, the development of a network of gay and lesbian foster homes in the state, support for having openly gay school guidance counselors and school psychologists, the possibility of MCCY producing a film

or film strip about gay youth and their families, an MCCY pamphlet with facts and references on the topic, an MCCY state wide resource guide, an issue of the MCCY newsletter devoted to gay adolescents and outreach to the media.

MCCY is currently in the process of forming an Advisory Board to deal with pertinent gay adolescent issues in the hope of formulating an informational and educational packet for the general public and schools. If you would like to have input into the formation of such a packet or would like to aid MCCY with its gay youth project, contact the agency at 14 Beacon Street, Suite 706, Boston, MA 02108 (617) 742-8555.

## Vallely

continued from page 3

Vallely has stressed the need for a permanent commission on the status of women not under the appointive auspices of the governor, a situation that has led to the domination of the present commission by anti-choice, anti-ERA members.

## GALAS BOSTON

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Almost 100 years after universal acceptance of the germ theory of disease, it is appalling that every individual is still not being taught the significance of the role of personal hygiene in the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

Current attitudes (including group male-female and same-sex activities) require that each participant wash away those acquired and one's own germs and secretions, before and after sex contact, in protection of one's self and of one's sex partner(s).

An important health factor is remembering the lower digestive tract as a source of infectious germs including those which may cause non-gonococcal urethritis in the male and vaginitis in the female. Here are some highlights from our widely acclaimed booklet (Available in Spanish; soon in Japanese) —

### THE NEW VENEREAL DISEASE PREVENTION FOR EVERYONE

Personal Hygiene is Significant to VD PREVENTION and Good Health. Not to teach washing before and after sex activities is to encourage the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

#### PAGE 2: THE SEXUALLY ACTIVE MALE

Careful washing after sex will reduce the possibility of catching VD. The germs that cause syphilis and gonorrhea, as well as some other sexually transmitted diseases, are sensitive to soap and water.

#### WASH BEFORE SEX FOR HYGIENIC PURPOSES IMMEDIATELY AFTER INTERCOURSE:

Soap genitals working a bit of soft mushy soap into urinary opening.

Rinse.

Repeat procedure.

Then urinate (which may sting).

Extended exposure or delay before washing diminishes the effectiveness of this preventive measure. Washing is doubly important since even in the absence of syphilis and gonorrhea, other sexually transmitted germs can cause infections such as NGU (non-gonococcal urethritis) or NSU (non-specific urethritis).

If lubricants are involved in the sex act, use water-soluble preparations that will wash away. Do not use an oil base that will leave a film to trap the germs.

NOTE: The foreskin that covers the head of the penis may trap germs which can cause infections. Therefore, special attention should be given to washing the uncircumcised penis.

When vaccines against gonorrhea and syphilis will have been developed, personal hygiene will remain necessary to prevent other sexually transmitted diseases. For example: A gonorrhea vaccine will not prevent approximately half of the reported cases of male urethritis which are not gonorrhea.

#### PAGE 3: SOME ASPECTS OF PERSONAL HYGIENE FOR MALE AND FEMALE

Infectious germs which are always found in the lower digestive tract may be transmitted from the rectum during certain sex activities. Among the dangerous germs present may be the virus which causes hepatitis, and parasites which cause gastrointestinal disorders if they enter the mouth (anal-oral route).

The mucous membranes of the genito-urinary system are highly susceptible to infection by some of these germs from the rectum. For example: As a result of careless wiping from rectum toward vagina by the female after toilet, germs are easily spread to the vagina where they may cause infections, and from which they may be transmitted during vaginal, as well as rectal, intercourse. Therefore, females must not wipe in the direction of rectum to vagina. . . . .

Personal hygiene before and after sex can be greatly aided by the bidet, a low bathroom fixture, designed to facilitate washing for disease prevention and proper cleansing after toilet. Not everyone, unfortunately, has been adequately informed as to the advantages of the bidet; it is not found, for instance, in homes or hotels in the United States, whereas in many parts of the world it is widely used and significant to personal hygiene. Good hygiene requires careful washing of genital and rectal areas before and after sex.

#### Men and Women: Learn also about—

The significance during treatment of no sex contact which may spread the disease, and particularly during treatment for urethritis, no alcohol which may irritate the GU system, delaying cure. The importance of a follow-up visit to the physician to see if further treatment is required. For the sexually active male — the commercially available germicidal preparation (Sanitube™) for use after intercourse to prevent gonorrhea and syphilis.

For the sexually active female — certain commercially available vaginal contraceptive foams, creams, suppositories and jellies, which also have germicidal properties that may prevent VD.

Send your tax-deductible contribution for a copy (quantities available.) Help us educate the public.

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE  
PREVENTION OF VD, INC.  
335 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10013

## GALAS

continued from page 10

rose with a dark red daub in the center and long curving lines, as sexy as any of the more explicitly sexual works in the exhibit.

It would be easy to write a whole commentary on the portraits in the show alone. There were many of them, mostly, although not exclusively of lesbians, and, while I have seen a collection of exclusively lesbian photographs, it occurred to me that a show made up of portraits painted by lesbians, including self-portraits, would be fascinating. Arlene Diehl's painting, "Lizzie," shows a young woman sitting in a chair, squarely, possibly slightly defiantly, as if she spends much of her time defending herself. In contrast to this attitude is the painting's extreme delicacy of feature and line; and the moving delicacy and respectfulness of the whole painting. I describe this one painting in some detail because the two words, "definiteness" and "delicacy" kept recurring to me as I looked at these portraits. One has the feeling again and again of delicate, finely drawn women standing with both feet firmly on the ground, looking mistrustfully, hopefully or defiantly, at a dangerous world. C.T. McKee's "Ominous Beat" shows a young, dismayed looking woman staring out of the painting with her birth certificate in one hand. In this piece the combination of media (paint, cut-paper, gesso) adds to the fragmented effect; the woman is plainly trying to fit together disparate and confusing pieces of her world. Roxan McKinnon's boldly drawn, brightly colored paintings of women have much of the same quality: in "The Dream," one of the sleeping or newly awakened woman's breasts has escaped, and she sits up in bed, awakened, present and a little mistrustful. Linda Wielblad's precise pen drawing, "Jan Dyke," shares this delicate yet tough and firmly planted quality as does Karen An dev Black's "Womyn Softening," a painting of the torso of a large, dark, and strong-looking woman who sits in a tough stance

with her legs apart, her whole body somehow expressive of the conflict between the struggle to hold oneself together, and the need to relax, to soften.

Many of the photographs are portraits, and the same qualities in the paintings emerge here. While some are more about the exploration of line and form and others are more clearly character portraits, in neither case is either form and beauty or personhood lost sight of. Helena Rees's grainy bodies capture a sensual purity of line but one never forgets that these are women and not a beautiful arrangement of line. Donna Chabot's bold solid women are also complex and organic compositions. I found Joyce Erickson Rylander's colored photograph, "M's Neck" both beautiful and sexy, while Marcia Geier's sequence of two women in the shower was romantically sensual and lovely — while totally escaping the greeting-card prettiness of similar photographs I have seen of two women together made by men.

Just as I found some of the more experimental paintings and sculpture interesting in the daring way they combined different materials or tried new effects, so I found Sherry Edwards "electro-graphics," photographs of women's legs and bodies in

brehtaking purples and red, and Marie Favorito's "Standard Print" photograph-silk screens, fascinating both in form and in content. The exhibition in general was full of a sense of risk and experimentation, not for the sake of gimmick or out of ennui, but rather in the search to find new forms to express new and revolutionary ideas.

To review an exhibit such as GALAS is frustrating in that each artist exhibited deserves and has earned critical recognition and mention. There is not enough space to do that here, so that I urge you to go and see for yourself. There is a book for comments; and these artists deserve to know that they have been seen, recognized and appreciated.

As a last note, Jazmine Loisel's batik and textile paintings have been appearing in my dreams for the last couple of nights. Her "Birth Ritual," a painting of a small and terrified creature holding her arms out in a gesture full of both agony and wonder, and her "African Goddess," a serene and powerful vision in purple and black; are fitting guardian deities for this exhibition which is so full of birthing, wonder, and power; an exhibition well worth the laying aside of the walls we usually build, to protect ourselves and our vision.

## Navy

continued from page 1

barracks."

Assistant prosecutor Lieutenant Paul Warner tried to show that Jones is biased in favor of Gaskins. Jones admitted that she and Gaskins are, in Warner's words, "very good friend(s)" and that she would like to see Gaskins exonerated. She added later on, however, that she wouldn't lie under oath to help her friend.

Gaskins has been exonerated of

the charges. Others who are still facing discharge are shipmates Wendi Williams, 25, of the Bronx, NY; Alicia Harris, 18, of Chicago; Norma Hohl, 20, of Bell, Mo.; Barbara Underwood, 22, of Orlando, Fla.; Louise Fitzmorris, 27, of Rumford, Maine; Sharris Heusser, 25, of Pelican Rapids, Minn.; and Carol Brock, 23, of San Jose.

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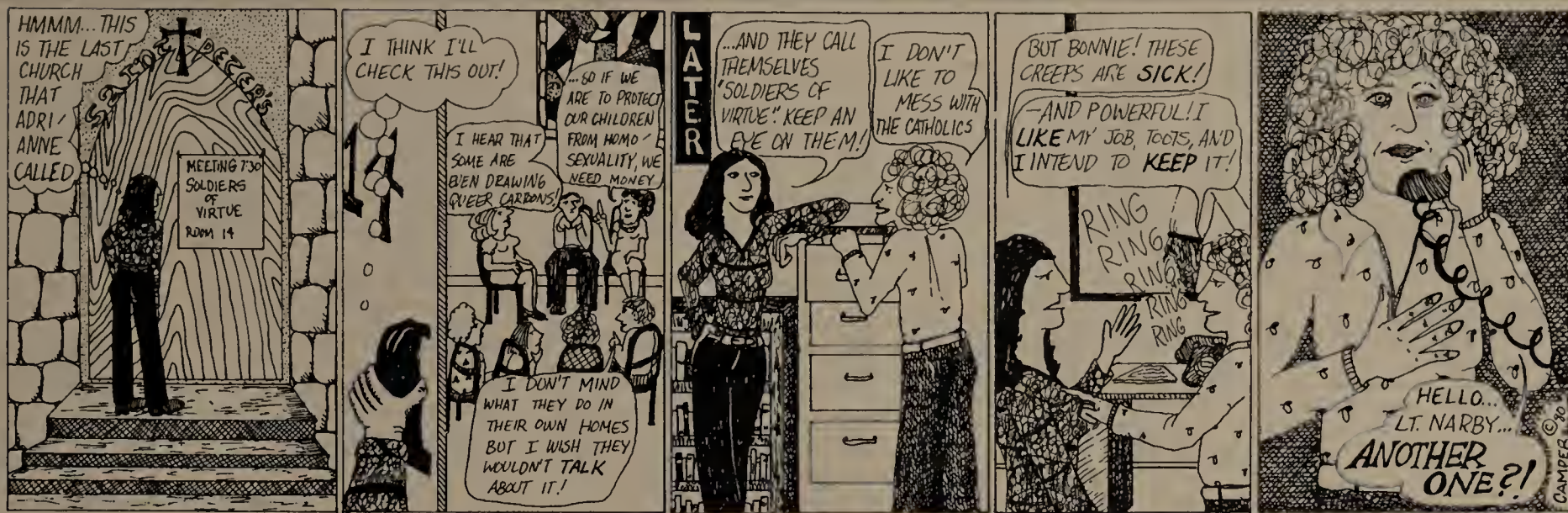
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# Cookie Jones

By Jennifer Camper



## Unicorn

Continued from Page 7

two years, and said, "They didn't sound like most of the other pieces in the paper. I really thought the writing was good and wished that I could know that person [the writer]." I could picture him, reading, experiencing the peculiar kind of loneliness which, I suppose, all gays feel at times, and then finding someone whose writing touched a chord that vibrated sympathetically in him.

Whether Jack and I will get to be friends in some meaningful sense, I don't know, but I was surprised that he hadn't recognized me much earlier, our actual situation being what it is.

He said that he began figuring things out when he heard me complaining about the heat and that Nancy Walker complained in her column about the heat. The light finally dawned, no matter what led to the dawning, and I am glad for that. When, in dismay, I asked, "How could you not know?" he replied, "I didn't expect you to be the type you are. I expected a feminist." I am not sure how true that response is. He may have expected either a man-hater or a stomper, but since there is nothing in any of my columns (or in my life, for that matter) that would suggest such a person, I wonder if he just didn't want to tell me that he expected a thinner

person. Who knows?

I am pleased that we didn't have a coming out party until after we had made certain critical assessments of each others' abilities and character. The nature of a working relationship automatically changes upon the revelation of shared minority sexual orientation, and if that revelation takes place too soon, I think, it can prevent other necessary working communications from developing.

Whenever I get my work caught up, I type my articles for GCN at my desk. Often I wonder if anyone will come over and ask to see what I am doing, so I put a handwritten memo on my typing stand and pretend to be typing that, while in actuality I am writing messages to you folks in Lavender Land. Who could imagine that my boss is secretly reading what I am secretly writing.

Apparently Jack thought he had found a sapphire in the mud when we acknowledged each other. He went about telling people throughout the building, and then he immediately reported to me that he had done so. At least one of the people he told was straight, but he said, "She's a reader and she thinks you write very well." I was both touched and flattered. He seemed so genuinely happy about my being thrown, by some curious quirk of fate, into

his lap, so to speak. Actually, I believe there is some destiny that shapes our ends . . . Coincidence is too perfect to be accident.

Ever since our expression of mutual interests Jack has been sending me new "friends." I get phone calls from all over the building saying, "I am So and So and I work in Such and Such and Jack just told me you're here and I want to say 'Welcome, and keep up the good work'." Let me tell you, that feels mighty good. Our connections, at work, at home, on the march, wherever we can make them, bring a dimension of hope and support into our lives that nothing else can. The world's a lonely place. We all need to feel part of a large, accepting, protecting and supporting group. I am very, very happy that Jack came out to me. He is in a rather delicate position professionally, and I asked him if people generally knew about him. He said, "Some do and some don't." He, at any rate, is pursuing his admirable goals with high energy, great skill and boundless courage. The more people like Jack who work with honor and come out fearlessly, the closer we all come to the day when sexual preference won't mean a damn thing to anyone. It will just be one more fact like always feeling hot or going across the country in an old VW.

A letter from your

# Buddies

Hi, Once more, Harriet Leider will transform your laughs to tears and back again. Her vocal gymnastics, as dazzling and brilliant as her costumes, can be seen August 27 thru September 1, one show nightly. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the lounge bar for \$2.00.

I have already noticed some of the advance party of students appearing on the scene. I met Steve from Dallas who will be attending B.U. this fall. If they're all as hot as Steve, I anticipate a hot winter. Wayne and Beth, vacationing here from England want us to move Buddies to the Motherland. They promised they would forget the whole tea incident.

Last Sunday evening introduced a new definition to the word encore, with a sensational performance by Stephanie Gregg and her pianist Jim Harlow. Incorporating the dramatic flair of Judy Garland, and sensitive style of Jane Olivor, Stephanie, unique in her own right, will be performing August 22 and 23, and again September 5 and 6, 9pm to 1am in the lounge.

We will continue to audition new talent for the lounge, our aim is to try and maintain the high standards of Beth Sass, which is tough to do, so keep watching for some new excitement in our cabaret.

Till next week,  
Love, Bob

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Co-driver cross country 18 wheeler will train. Driver is 41 with 15 yrs exp. On road 3 wks at time. Call Ken (802) 266-8284. Write Box 164 Beecher Falls, VT 05902. If not home please leave name & tele or address. (7)

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Need someone to type w/own typewriter, compile notes, take dictation, organize material for my bk. Entails much paperwork & time spent at jail helping get bk ready for pub. Bk deals w/my life, imprisonment, S&M sex, local politics, gay persecution. Walpole State Prison. Ken Appleby, 50 Union St., Northampton, MA 01060. (6)

### SATANIST, PSYCHIC, WITCH

Successful, experienced in psychically returning torment to predators, sorely needed for information, possible instruction. Please write to GCN Box 300. (6)

### RESTORATION

Take a look in your backyard and see if you can part with the following: Anything one can use to restore an old house in Roxbury. Kindly appreciated. Call Larry at GCN, 426-4469. (c)

## GCN SPECIALS

### \*\*\*\*\*A COMPUTER FOR GCN\*\*\*\*\*

GCN has the chance to acquire the components for a Z80(CP/M) micro-computer system including CRT, printer, and a couple of floppies. We need a few skilled people to put the thing together and tend to its care and feeding thereafter. If you can volunteer the time for the assembly or subsequent maintenance, or both, please give Malda a call, at 426-4469. (And thanks for all the offers of help on our current computer needs, we found one.)

### PEOPLE W/ACCESS TO OFFSET MACHINES

GCN has lost its source of offset printing. If you have access to offset printing on a regular basis (we need things like free renewal notices printed) and want to help us out, please call Mike or Richard at 426-4469. Thanks.

### FREE GCN!

If you are organizing or attending a convention, workshop, or meeting and would like to distribute free back issues of GCN, please send name and address to which they should be sent, number of copies desired, date needed by. Please give 5 weeks advance notice. Write to GCN Promotions Dept., 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108.

### WORK YOUR OWN HOURS

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### LIE DOWN ON THE JOB???

Sometimes we'd like to, or at least we'd like to be comfortably seated. If anyone has a nice couch to contribute to our well-being, we would love to have it. Please call Mike at 426-4469.

### HOT OFF THE PRESS, AND ON

When the weather sizzles, GCN staffers melt. We have no air conditioning, and couldn't take the electricity costs if we had. We can use fans. If anyone out there would like to help cool us off, by donating a fan, please call Mike at 426-4469. Thank you.

### LESBIAN MOTHERS

I am working on an article for GCN about lesbian mothers coming out to their children. If you'd like to share your experiences in doing this or discuss your reasons for not coming out, please write to Gloria Berkman, c/o GCN, 22 Bromfield Street, Boston, MA 02108. If you use real names in your description, please indicate if they should be changed in the article.

### WHAT'S THE WORD, BIRD?

GCN needs news writers to let our readers know what's happening in lesbian and gay communities across the country and around the world. No previous writing experience is necessary — just a burning desire to get the word out! If you'd like to volunteer your services, write or call Denise Sudell at GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108, (617) 426-4469.

### HELP!

GCN is growing. We need your old chairs, bookshelves, tables, "scrap" (usable) 2x4s, plywood, paint brushes & rollers, telephones, plants, gay books, filling cabinets (legal size), flowers, etc. Use your imagination! Give Mike or Richard a call at 426-4469. P.S., we'll need help w/painting & building too. Let us know if you're available for some weekend group work parties.

### HELP

GCN distributor needs a place to park the GCN truck. I park in the Central Square area & need some visitor permits. Any other suggestions before we get the boot? Leave message for Barbara at 426-4469.

**VOLUNTEER INDEXER(S) NEEDED!**  
Work on the GCN index which is becoming a valuable reference tool. Flexible hours. If you enjoy detail work and would like to help, we'd be happy to explain in detail just what's involved in this project and how you can help. Ask for Michael or Charles, 426-4469.

## ORGANIZATIONS

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United Methodists for Gay and Lesbian Concerns Resurrects!  
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### NH LAMBDA

Box 1043, Concord, NH 03301. 332-4440, 889-1416, 224-3785, 399-4927, 224-8517. A statewide lesbian organization, meeting the third Saturday of every month. Support, education and political action, since 1976.

### D.O.B.

Support organization for lesbians, 1151 Mass Av, Camb. Old Camb Bap. Raps every Tues & Thurs 8pm. 35 plus rap 2nd W & 4th Fri, 8pm. Bi-monthly magazine FOCUS \$8.00. Monthly social & fund-raising event. Softball at Magazine Beach (Camb) at 3pm every Sun. Info & office hrs 661-3633. All women invited to participate. (c)

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### WOMEN ORGANIZING

A Socialist-Feminist Bulletin. Articles on Socialist-feminist approaches to reproductive rights, lesbian/gay liberation, clerical organizing. Published by NAM Socialist-Feminist Commission, Box G, 3244 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60657, \$4 for four issues. Also available from Boston-Area NAM, POB 443, Somerville, MA 02144. (617) 661-8372. (ex)

*Guardian*, independent radical news-weekly, covers black, women's, gay struggles and liberation movements around the world. Special offer: six weeks for \$1. Guardian, Dept. GCN, 33 W. 17 St., NYC, NY 10011. (c)

### HOW GAY IS YOUR LIBRARY?

Pamphlet of tips for non-librarians on how to get gay materials into libraries, available from the Gay Task Force of the American Library Association. "Censored, Ignored, Overlooked, Too Expensive? How to Get Gay Materials into Libraries" explains library selection policies in a general way, and tells how you can get a library to buy more gay books & periodicals. Also tells what to do if library refuses your request; why gay bks are sometimes kept where you have to ask for them; & how to donate materials to the library. \$1 to Barbara Gittings — GTF, P.O. Box 2383, Phila., PA 19103. Bkstore & bulk order discount available. More info: Barbara Gittings (215) 382-3222. (c)

### FOCUS

*Focus* is a bi-monthly journal for lesbians, \$8.00 per year, \$1.35 per individual copy. 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138. Publishes fiction, poetry, reviews, essays, graphics. Editorial meetings first Monday of every other month (Apr, June, etc.) at 8pm. Call 259-0063 for info. We need writers and production people. A good place to learn how to put a magazine together.

*Periodicals by Mail* is a project designed to give wider accessibility to worthwhile periodicals not distributed through many newsstands. For a free list of over 70 alternative periodicals which can be ordered by mail, send your name, address, and a 15¢ stamp to: *Periodicals by Mail*, a periodical retreat, 336½ S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104. (1/mo)

# Prisoners



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our prisoner penpals in the classified

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GCN gets lots of requests for penpal ads from prisoners. Almost none of them are paid for. If you would like to support the paper in this, and perhaps even increase the possibility of a more in depth dialogue between gay men and women on the inside and those of us lucky enough to be on the 'outside', please SEND MONEY. (We also send free subs to prisoners who ask.) In any case, take the time to get to know someone who's getting more or less fucked over by strait law (euphemistically called 'justice') and who's obviously very lonely.

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It gets quite lonely and is a very frustrating experience not having any meaningful communication with the outside world. I sincerely hope someone can help me. Some of my interests are: music, reading, politics and the pursuit of happiness. Jerry NORRIS 150-051, P.O. Box 511, Columbus, OH 43216. (9)

I am seeking someone who would be willing to correspond with me. I am currently incarcerated and being gay in prison definitely has its drawbacks. You don't know who you can talk to. It's easier to keep to yourself. Please write Jason HANNAN 071766, P.O. Box 1100-1732, Avon Park, FL 33825. (9)

I live in a 5x8 cell seven days a week and I have no family and it gets very lonesome in here. I am in search of penpals — someone to write to share a smile with from time to time. I hope you can find it in your heart to drop a few lines. Robert CARROLL, Box 69651, M-2, Reidsville, GA 30499. (9)

I am still holding on to my dignity, sanity and inner strength towards all oppositions/obstacles. To help me in these endeavors, I am looking for correspondence from gay brothers and sisters on the outside. Roosevelt WILLIAMSON, #75A-0795, Cell #A2-219, Drawer B, Stormville, NY 12582 (10)

I received your address from a friend. I'm very lonely and would love to become pen-pals with anyone that chooses to write. Any consideration given this request will be greatly honored and forever appreciated. Alonzo Winfred BRYANT, S-1-N-4 #039346, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091 (10)

Have no one to correspond with. Hoping this ad will touch someone to pick up the pen and jot down a few things. I want to get a good correspondence relationship going. Jimmy PURVIS #067826, P.O. Box 158-M.C.I., Confinement Cell #9, Lowell, FL 32663 (10)

Have no way of getting contact with the outside world. I've been lonesome too long and don't have anyone to write to. Please write Derek MILLER #154-463, P.O. Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699 (10)

I read the paper and hope to find someone to write to. You can reach me by writing to: Stelman R. ROY, #152-475, P.O. Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699. (10)

Gay man, non-racist, poetic, intelligent, attractive and longing to share my life with someone. I'm all alone in this world. Sidney RAWSON 15937, PO Box 14, Boise, ID 83707 (7)

Lonely and in desperate need of someone to acknowledge my existence. I desire correspondence with concerned and realistic people. Letters should be addressed to: Robert MCGEE, P.O. Box 69, London, OH 43140 (10)

I have no friends and would like to start corresponding with people to keep up with what is going on in the world. Leroy ROBERTSON, 90963 Camp, C-T-2, Angola, LA 70712 (10)

Now in minimum security and will be receiving weekends home soon! Still looking for correspondence from friends. Peter SULEWSKI #143886, BB Rt. 3, Box 3333, Hagerstown, MD 21740 (10)

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We are trying to start a Prisoner Project to do outreach (especially to lesbian prisoners), to send out books and letters, and to help do research on prisoners' mail rights (making more public the harassment that wardens and prison mail rooms exercise over lesbian and gay prisoners). If you're interested write Mike Riegle at GCN. Also, we send FREE subscriptions to prisoners who ask. Contributions to help GCN do this are most welcome!

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Am not lonely. Getting out within 80 days. On outside completely self-employed and independent. Growing, buying, collecting and selling medical roots & herbs of all kinds from all over the Mother Earth. Have no time for people who are only into the physical aspect of Gay Life. Seeking long-term relationship with independent and politically oriented person. Willie N. ANDERSON, 42559 MSU, Parchman, MS 38738. (9)

I want a "PENPAL"; will correspond with anyone at anytime at your convenience. Krl Wayne BROGIE 107128 POBox 97, McAlister, OK 74501 (7)

I seek a loving and understanding relationship with a gay guy. If there's anyone who cares and wishes to brighten up my life, write to me. My interests are many and my pleasures are few. Awaiting reply. Mark PARKER 146-477, P.O. Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699. (7)

I have been receiving the paper about six months now and enjoy the news very much. Need correspondence from anyone. Life is very lonely when you receive no mail. Am quiet and friendly. Floyd J. THIBODEAU, 1600 N. Do, Sioux Falls, SD 57101 (10)

I have lots of time to write letters. I would enjoy corresponding with anyone who writes. Some of my interests are: reading, poetry, all sorts, listening to music and meeting people. Steven PIERCE, No. 152-736, P.O. Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699. (10)

I am alone and very interested in corresponding with "down to earth" people. Interested in gay politics, writing, reading & partying. Don't hesitate to write. J.W. BURNETT #10028, P.O. Box 41, Michlgan City, Ind. 46360 (10)

I am incarcerated here in Florida. I would like to have my name put in the paper in the hopes that I'll meet some other gay people. My name and address follows. Arthur DELIOLE A-047157, Box 158, Bldg. 6, Lowell, FL 32663. (9)

Loneliness is the greatest disease in the world. Looking to develop a sincere relationship. Sincere gays please write Terry HATCH 14637, Box 14, Boise, Idaho, 83707. (9)

I desperately need to write to someone. My hobbies are jogging, reading, meeting new people and making love. Greg BRADLEY, MCi 067005 Box 158, DC-44, Lowell, FL 32663. (7)

25 year old man would like to hear from intelligent older person. Sincerely, Glenn JONES, 055791, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091. (7)

I would like to hear from gay men and women, transvestites and transsexuals. Race unimportant. Ronnie Lee BEVERLY, 25330#168 A Cell 209, Box 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837. (7)

It would be divine to hear from open-minded and interesting people from the outside world. Nate SEARY 148-358, P.O. Box 69, London, OH 43140. (7)

Very affectionate and intelligent young man (and VERY GAY TOO!) would like to share his feelings with someone. Please write: Charles E. SKINNER, 32439, Box 2800, Lincoln, NE 68502. (7)

Roberto BROWN called GCN to say he hadn't received any mail in 2 years and was very lonely and would somebody please write. Box 43, Norfolk, MA 02056. (7)

I like modelling, I used to travel a lot because I love meeting new people. I have been locked up for three years now. I write poetry during my leisure time. Write Tommie MARTINEZ, 146858 6-B-2-14, Rt. 3, Box 3333, Hagerstown, MD M.C.T.C. 21740. (9)

Young and alone. Need someone to share my hopes & thoughts with. I'm from Ohio and have been locked up 3 years now. (Should be free in two. Write Earl LETNER, 95962, P.O. Box 97, McAlester, OK 74501. (9)

I would like to know if there is someone who would or could write me. I am a young man in prison and haven't anyone to write. I haven't any kind of family and would like to correspond with people on the outside. Ron FITCH 74050, Camp A C/B, Angola, LA 70712. (9)

I am appealing to readers not only for correspondence, but for your prayers as well. I will tell you of myself as a person. I love poetry, stereotype music and beautiful flowers. But most of all, I like people and being with a friend. I wish to correspond with only those that are sincere and understanding and who will reach out a helping hand. Please, if you have the time to write, it will be appreciated to the utmost. I'm looking for a friend who understands the meaning of "loneliness." Eugene YATES, P.O. Box 69, London, OH 43140. (9)

I have never felt more lonely in my whole life. I need someone to write to. I really need a friend. Please write Michael JOLLY, P.O. Box 73282, F-4, Reidsville, GA 30499. (9)

I am not gay, but would like to correspond with gay men. I will answer any and all letters. Larry O. PRUDHOME, P.O. Box 607, N.S.P., Carson City, NV 89701. (9)

While being incarcerated here, I have read GCN and it was very agreeable to my criterion. I am gay and respectfully request that I might receive a subscription in order to keep up with the time. Readers may write: Albert J. JONES, Esq. 042963, P.O. Box 158 DC5, Marion Correctional Institute, Lowell, FL 32663. (9)

I would like to get someone to write me. I've been in for 5 years and a friend gave me the address for the paper. Please write me back: Charles R. KONETSKI, R.M.C., P.O. Box 628, Lake Butler, FL 32054 A-067951. (9)



# Calendar

## weekly events

### sundays

**Boston, MA** — Gay Recreational Activities Committee (GRAC). Swimming at Lindemann Center (Stanford St/Gov't Ctr.). Man and women. 2-4pm.

**Boston, MA** — Gay Recreational Activities Committee (GRAC). Roller skating. Hatch Shell, Esplanade. Men and women. Call 282-9161 for info.

**Boston, MA** — Chiltern Men's Basketball. Lindemann Center (Gov't Ctr.). 4:30-6pm. Info: 227-6167.

**Boston, MA** — Chiltern Running Club. Jogging and racing on the Esplanade. Suns. at 1, Mon, Wed, & Fri at 6. Info: 367-2776.

**Cambridge, MA** — Softball at Magazina Beach. 3pm. All women are invited. Info: 661-3633.

**Boston, MA** — Gay AA meets at Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St. Gay men and women. 2:30pm.

**Greenfield, MA** — Gay Men of Franklin County. Every third Sun. Green River Cafe, Osgood St. 7pm.

**Orleans, MA** — Shoreline, a gay social group, alternative to the bars, on Cape Cod. Meets every 2nd Sunday. Info: P.O. Box 1614, Orleans, MA 02653.

**Boston, MA** — Dignity/Boston Catholic Mass for Gay/Lesbian and concerned Catholics. Arlington St. Church, 5:30pm. Info: 536-6518 (7-10pm M-F; 2-5pm Sun).

**New York, NY** — Rainbow Society. Deaf gay meeting. Manhattan Community Center, 75 Morton St. 2nd Sunday of the month. 2pm. 755-1426.

**New York, NY** — Dyke Anarchists meet. 339 Lafayette St., 7pm.

**New York, NY** — Gay People in Health Care. Meeting. Third Sunday. St. Vincent's Hospital, 7th Ave. and 12th St., Room 207. 7:30pm. 499-1453. (Mon-Fri, 6-10pm).

**Concord, NH** — NH Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men. 1st Sun. of the month. 1-5pm. Statewide political action group. Info: 228-8049.

**Bedford, MA** — Bedford-Concord Area Social Club meets at 7:30pm. Info: John 275-1336, or Joe 897-7813. All invited.

**New York, NY** — Comité Homosexual Latinoamericano. 7pm. 433 E. 6th St. Apt. 5R. Info: 786-2893.

## coming events

### aug 17 sun

**Boston, MA** — Fenway Lesbian and Gay Alliance (FLAGA) PICNIC! Potluck at the picnic tables in the Fenway Gardens. Charcoal, grills, paper plates etc. will be provided. Entertainment to be announced. Come and enjoy yourself with some people who are interested in working on the problem of violence against lesbians and gay men. Noon.

**Boston, MA** — Boston Area Coalition for Cuban Aid and Resettlement (BACCAR) open meeting for potential sponsors of gay and lesbian Cuban refugees and also for other interested persons. Arlington St. Church. Every Sunday at 3pm. Info: 723-2997 (8-12pm).

**Newburyport, MA** — Women's Work Project Benefit Concert featuring Kathy Winter and Betsy Rose with Marsha Taylor. Nock Middle School. Low St. Tickets at New Words. 8pm.

### 18 mon

**Cambridge, MA** — Lesbian Task Force of the Boston chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) will meet at 99 Bishop Richard Allen Dr. (Central Sq.) 6:30pm. Lesbians: A Consciousness-Raising Kit will be presented. All women are welcome. Info: 881-6015.

### 19 tues

**Boston, MA** — Gay Way (WBUR, 90.9FM) Demian interviews feminist therapist Buffy Dunker about her work and about coming out late in life. 8:30-9:30pm.

**Boston, MA** — "We can do something to end violence against women!" Meeting for women

## mondays

**Cambridge, MA** — Gay Light Support Group for women 14-21. Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Info: 354-8807.

**Brookline, MA** — Discussion group including gay and bisexual men and women. New members welcome. 7:30-9:30pm. Info: 731-6619.

**Cambridge, MA** — Self-defense classes offered by Amanda/People's Security at Martin Luther King School. 7-9pm. Write for info to: P.O. Box 114, Auburndale, MA 02166.

**Cambridge, MA** — LUNA (Lesbians United for Non-nuclear Action) meeting. Women's Educ. Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 8807. 7-10pm.

**Brattleboro, VT** — Southern Vermont Gay Men meet every 4th Monday at the Common Ground, 25 Elliot St. 7:30pm.

**Morristown, NJ** — Gay Activist Alliance in Morris County (GAAMC). Meetings, discussions, socials. Morristown Unitarian, Normandy Heights Rd. 762-6217. (NJ Gay Switchboard: (609) 921-2565.)

**Nashua, NH** — Meeting of Nashua Area Gays. 8pm. Info: Paul, 888-1305, or write: Nashua Area Gays, P.O. Box 3472, Nashua 03061.

**New York, NY** — Lesbian Feminist Liberation Meeting. Women's Center, 243 W. 20th St. 691-5460. 7:30pm.

**New York, NY** — Meeting of the NY Coalition of Black and Third World Lesbians and Gays. Triangle Ctr., 26 9th Ave., 3rd floor. 7:30pm. Anyone interested in these issues is welcome regardless of race.

## tuesdays

**New York, NY** — WBAI (99.5FM) The Lesbian Show. 8:30pm. 279-0707.

**Cambridge, MA** — Friends Meeting at Cambridge. Draft counseling. Every Tuesday at 3:30 and 7:30pm. 5 Longfellow Park (near Harvard Sq.) Info: 876-6883.

**New Bedford, MA** — Rap Group at the Aid Center, 18 S. Water St. Every Tuesday thru Aug. 26. 8-10pm. Info: (617) 999-3232.

**Uxbridge, MA** — Support and Discussion Group for Lesbians. Tuesday a/e, 7:30pm. Info: 278-5475.

**Cambridge, MA** — Daughters of Bilitis. Organization for women. Discussion group. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1131 Mass Ave. 8pm. Call 661-3633 for info on all DOB activities.

**Boston, MA** — GayWay (WBUR 90.9FM) Weekly radio program featuring interviews, news, current events and music. 8:30pm.

**Hartford, CT** — Greater Hartford Lesbian and Gay Taskforce meets at Hill Ctr., 350 Farmington Ave. 7pm. (First Tuesdays) Info: 249-7691.

Interested in starting Green Light Safehouse projects in their communities. 7:30pm at the Jackson Mann Community School, Brighton Ave., Allston. Info: 739-2200 x513 or 876-7015.

## 20 wed

**Boston, MA** — Boston Great American Lesbian Art Show. 34 Farnsworth St. (off Congress St. near So. Sta. stop). 12 noon-10:30pm. Music, poetry, dance and theater performances from 7:30-10:30pm.

**Cambridge, MA** — "A unique journey through lesbian culture." Benefit for Women's Educational Media. MIT Bldg 10 (77 Mass Ave) Room 250. 8pm. \$3 donation.

**Boston, MA** — Chiltern Mt. Club. Tour of historic Concord, picnic and swim. Info: Bob (617) 263-8846.

## 21 thurs

**Boston, MA** — NO PAPER THIS WEEK SO NO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. NEXT WEEK, YES!!!

**Boston, MA** — North American Man/Boy Love Association. Meeting at Glad Day Book Shop, 22 Bromfield St. (near Park St.) 8pm.

**Cambridge, MA** — Lesbian and Gay Folkdancing. Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. 7-9pm. Newcomers are very welcome.

**Boston, MA** — Mass Gay Political Caucus. Annual membership meeting. Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St. (side entrance at rear). 7pm.

**New York, NY** — Lesbian Youth Rap Group. Church of the Good Shepherd, 240 E. 31st St. 7-9pm. Info: 685-6727.

**New York, NY** — General meeting of the Committee of Lesbian and Gay Male Socialists at NY Marxist School, 151 W 19th St. 7th floor. 7:30pm. Info: 988-3012.

## wednesdays

**Boston, MA** — Lesbian and Gay Media Advocates (LAGMA) meeting. 7:30-9:30pm. New members welcome. Our advocacy is growing. Join us. Call 426-9371. (M-F, 6pm-midnight) for info.

**Boston, MA** — Gay Youth Rap Group organized by the Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY) for gay women and men 14-22. Call Hotline for info: 426-9371, M-F 8-12pm.

**Boston, MA** — Gay Recreational Activities Committee (GRAC). Volleyball. Lindemann Center (Stanford St/Gov't Ctr.) Man and women. 8-10pm.

**Cambridge, MA** — Lunchtime Alternative: Richard Strange and Haakon Chevalier sing and play music from the 12th to the 20th centuries while you eat. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave. 12:15-12:45pm. FREE. Donations accepted. Bring lunch.

**New York, NY** — WBAI (99.5FM) Gay Rep. 279-0707.

**New York, NY** — Chelsea Gay Association meets last Wed. of the month. Coffeehouse. Info: 891-7950.

**New York, NY** — Gay Opinion Forum. Last wed. of the month. 348 W. 14th St. 7:30pm. Info: 675-9227.

## thursdays

**Boston, MA** — GCN proofreading and layout (basically cutting and pasting with a little beer and pretzels on the side). No experience necessary. We'll teach you all you need to know! Proofreading begins 5-ish and layout 6-ish. 22 Bromfield St. (near Park St and Washington St subway stops), 2nd floor. 426-4469.

**Cambridge, MA** — Daughters of Bilitis. Organization for women. Discussions and social hour. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave. 8pm. Call 661-3633 for info on all DOB activities.

**Cambridge, MA** — Lesbian and Gay Folkdancing. Alternate Thursdays from 7-9pm. Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. Newcomers are very welcome. Info: Judy 661-1436 or Dee 7223.

**Cambridge, MA** — Lesbian Liberation. A leaderless support group meeting every Thursday from 8-10pm. Newcomers welcome. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

**Boston, MA** — Lunchtime Alternative. Richard Strange and Haakon Chevalier sing and play music from the 12th and 20th centuries while you eat. Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury St. 12:15-12:45pm. Free. Donations accepted. Bring lunch.

## 22 fri

**Boston, MA** — NO PAPER THIS WEEK, SO NO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. BUT NEXT WEEK, YES!!!

## 23 sat

**Boston, MA** — Chiltern Mt. Club. Mt. Adams overnight (difficult). Info: Bliss (603) 883-5583.

**Cambridge, MA** — Rummage sale benefit for Boston Alliance Against Registration and the Draft. 11am-5pm. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave. Info: 491-4694.

**Boston, MA** — Boston Great American Lesbian Art Show. 12 noon-7pm. Music and entertainment 2-4pm.

**Boston, MA** — "Black art," panel discussion at 2pm, accompanying "The Dinner Party." 539 Tremont St. Free. Info: 542-9223.

## 25 mon

**Boston, MA** — Boston Asian Gay Men and Lesbians meeting and potluck dinner. Info: 542-0144 (Glad Day Book Shop).

**Boston, MA** — Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee meeting for people interested in planning future fund-raising and community events as part of the committee's year-round organizing effort. Glad Day Book Shop, 22 Bromfield St. (near Park St.) 7:30pm sharp.

**Marblehead, MA** — North Shore Gay Alliance (NSGA) is sponsoring a moonlight cruise on Boston Harbor. \$4 advance reservation only. Info: 745-6966 or 741-0607.

**New York, NY** — Potluck dinner at the NY Coalition of Third world Lesbians and Gay Men. Triangle Gay Community Center, 26 9th Ave. 3rd floor. 7:30pm.

**Cambridge, MA** — Lesbians with children. Support group. 8-10pm. Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

**New York, NY** — Gay Activists Alliance regular meeting at 339 Lafayette St. (near Houston). 8:30pm. All are welcome.

**Somerville, MA** — Lesbian support group for younger women in Somerville. 7:30pm at the Somerville Woman's Center, 38 Union Square (second floor over laundromat). For info call 623-9340.

## fridays

**Boston, MA** — Come to GCN office, 22 Bromfield (near Park St. subway stop), 2nd floor, anytime after 5 for as long or as short as you like (until about 11pm) to help send the paper out to subscribers. (There are LOTS of them and we do need help!) Refreshments and good times. Men and women welcome. 426-4469.

**Boston, MA** — Gay Patrol needs volunteers to help stop violence against gays in the Fenway Victory Garden. Info: 266-3780 or 367-1394.

**Boston, MA** — Chiltern Swimming for men and women over 40, 6-7pm; swimming for men of all ages 7-9pm. Lindemann Ctr. (near Gov't Ctr.) Info: 625-7924.

**Pittsfield, MA** — Lesbians United meetings. Info: Women's Services Center, 499-2425.

**Cambridge, MA** — Daughters of Bilitis. Over 35 rap group at Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave. 8pm. (4th Friday and 2nd Wednesday of each month).

**New Bedford, MA** — Support Group for gay women meets at Women's Center, 252 County St. 7pm. 996-3343.

**New York, NY** — Consciousness Raising on Racism, sponsored by Black and White Men Together (BWMT/NY). 7:30pm. Info: Henry at 873-5572 or 799-9432 or Richard at 431-4674.

## saturdays

**Boston, MA** — Gay Youth. Outings and activities for gay women and men 14-22. Organized by BAGLY. Call Hotline for info: 426-9371.

**Cambridge, MA** — Lesbian Feminist Youth Collectiva Meetings for women 14-21. 12 noon on. Info: 861-0949.

**New York, NY** — Gay Youth Rap Group. Peer rap about youth liberation. 80 Fifth Ave. (NGTF office). 741-5800.

**New York, NY** — Dignity/Gay and Lesbian Catholics. Discussion Group. 6:30pm, Mass 7:30pm followed by social. Church, 30 W. 16th St. Info: 869-3050.

## 27 wed

**Boston, MA** — Boston Great American Lesbian Art Show. See 20 wed above.

**New York, NY** — Gay Opinion Forum. Wallace Hamilton, author of Kevin, will discuss boy love and other things. 8:30pm. 348 W 14th St. 2nd floor.

## 28 thurs

**Boston, MA** — GCN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR PROOFREADING AND LAYOUT. SEE THURSDAYS ABOVE FOR DETAILS.

**Boston, MA** — Only New England showing of three films in progress on the March on Washington. Relive the demonstration and celebration. Arlington St. Church. Showings at 7 and 9 pm. \$4 donation to benefit the Lesbian and Gay Communications Network and the films.

**Boston, MA** — Chiltern Mt. Club. Potluck cookout. Info: John 275-1336. (The Sept. 28 potluck listed in Chiltern schedule is a mistake.)

## 29 fri

**Boston, MA** — GCN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO SEND OUT THE PAPER. SEE FRIDAYS ABOVE.

**Boston, MA** — Chiltern Mt. Club. Wilderness canoe/camping. Info: Roy at (817) 625-7924 (h) or 864-5570 x2577 (w).

**Maynard, MA** — Potluck dinner from 6pm to 7. Call Joe for directions at 897-7813.

**San Francisco, CA** — Fifth International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews. Info: Conference Coordinator, Box 5640, San Francisco, CA 94101.

**Albany, NY** — Annual Labor Day Music Gala at A Woman's Place. Bring your instruments. Talent show. Info: (518) 623-9970.

**The deadline for Calendar items is Tuesday at noon for the following issue.**